



# COURT NEWS

## Larson Justice Center Transfers to State

*Courthouse Is First to Be Transferred From Its County*

ELIZABETH ASHFORD

Court, county, and state judicial leaders on October 21 celebrated the historic transfer of the Larson Justice Center in Indio from the County of Riverside to the state. The transfer gives the judicial branch responsibility for the courthouse's funding and operations and begins the most recent phase of the state's transition to a unified statewide court system.

### IMPROVING COURTHOUSES STATEWIDE

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Office of Court Construction and Management (OCCM) is leading the implementation of the Trial Court Facilities Act of 2002, which shifted the governance of California's approximately 450 courthouse facilities from the counties to the state.

The AOC anticipates that the transfers will allow the judicial branch to leverage shared resources across all 58 California counties and centralize facilities management, leading to greater efficiencies and cost savings, large-scale purchasing power, and streamlined service delivery.

The transfers will also allow the branch to bring much-needed safety and functional improvements to courthouses statewide. Today many of California's court facilities are in trailers, 68 percent have inadequate security, 25 percent of courtrooms have no space for a jury, and 78 percent do not have adequate access for people with disabilities.

"The competing demands for county resources, particularly in a time of statewide financial difficulties, often place courthouse needs far down on the list of projects," said Chief Justice Ronald M. George in his

remarks at the October 21 ceremony. "As a result, courts have encountered problems ranging from deferred maintenance to the clearly documented need for new structures."

### ROLE OF STATE

The Trial Court Facilities Act defines the state's role in governing courthouses following their transfer. Once a facility is transferred, the Judicial Council takes on full policymaking responsibility for it and works with court, county, and community representatives to make decisions that reflect local needs in new construction projects.

The AOC is setting statewide performance standards for facility operations and maintenance. Its staff is working with court and county administrators to review existing facilities support and determine how best to deliver services to transferred and newly constructed courthouses. Currently, county—not court—employees provide direct facility operations services to most courts. Each county has the option of continuing those services under a contract with the state.

"We're collaborating closely with the counties to make these transitions as seamless as possible," says Kim Davis, Director of OCCM. "The transfers should not impact day-to-day court operations, and we are hopeful that



More than 150 court, county, and state judicial representatives came together at the Larson Justice Center in Indio on October 21 to commemorate the historic transfer of the facility from the County of Riverside to the state. Riverside County Fourth District Supervisor Roy Wilson (left) presented Chief Justice Ronald M. George with the "key" to the building. *Photo: Stuart Smith, Avant Studio*

all counties will continue contracting with the state."

In counties that negotiate facility services agreements, the transfers will have little or no immediate impact on the county employees assigned to court facility operations. If a county is not interested in contracting or not able to contract with the state, the AOC will work with the court executive to determine alternatives.

Options may include contracting with private facility management firms, other local government agencies, or a limited number of AOC employees to provide these services. Negotiations are on a county-by-county and building-by-building basis; the facility services option in one county may not be the same as that used in a neighboring county or even at other facilities within the same county.

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## JusticeCorps Members to Serve In L.A. Self-Help Centers

MARTHA WRIGHT

Nearly 100 local college students took the AmeriCorps pledge of service at the Stanley Mosk Justice Center in downtown Los Angeles on October 20, marking their initiation into the JusticeCorps—a first-of-its-kind program designed to help overburdened self-help legal access centers throughout Los Angeles County.

"The idea for the Justice Corps was born out of need," said Superior Court of Los Angeles County Presiding Judge Robert A. Dukes in remarks delivered at the ceremony. "For

years, people who came without representation were on their own. When they had forms filled out wrong, we would say, 'Go away and try again.'"

By joining the JusticeCorps program, the students agreed to commit 300 hours during this academic year to serving in local self-help centers. JusticeCorps volunteers are recruited as AmeriCorps members by participating universities and then trained by a coalition of experts from the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, and legal aid providers.

Over the course of one academic year of service, the members will receive up to 60 hours in training on subjects such as family law, small claims, and unlawful detainer cases. In addition, they will be instructed on legal ethics, cultural sensitivity, and civic engagement.

### HELP FOR SELF-HELP CENTERS

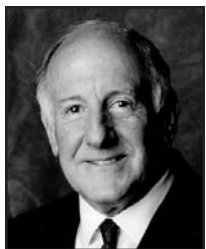
With up to 300,000 self-represented litigants using the Los Angeles courts each year, the contingent of 100 JusticeCorps members will allow self-help centers to offer more in-depth,

*Continued on page 7*

## Thank You

Every year, hundreds of individuals volunteer to serve on the Judicial Council's advisory committees and task forces. Their efforts assist the council in setting the direction for judicial administration in California.

On pages 17 and 18, *Court News* recognizes these individuals, who are so vital for improving the justice system.



Chief Justice  
Ronald M.  
George

#### MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF JUSTICE

## Ensuring Access to Justice

*Chief Justice Ronald M. George on October 9 addressed participants in the annual meeting of the State Bar of California in Monterey. He discussed efforts and new initiatives to ensure stable and predictable funding for the judicial branch, resources for habeas corpus counsel, revised appellate rules and jury instructions, and other means by which the California courts are improving access to the legal system.*

*Chief Justice George praised attendees for their increasing efforts to improve communication with litigants and the public. He called the courts and the bar “active guardians of judicial independence and of the rule of law.” Following is an excerpt from his remarks.*

This year began with uncertainty for much of state government. Following an unprecedented recall election, an unprecedented fiscal crisis kept us unsure of where the judicial branch would be as we began this latest fiscal year. Although much remains to be done, I am pleased to inform you that the judicial branch has continued on its path to greater fiscal stability, allowing us to create a stronger, more effective structure able to act responsively to the needs of the community we serve. . . .

#### ENSURING STABLE FUNDING

As I noted earlier, the recent budget cycle involved more than successful advocacy to restore judicial branch resources to a manageable level. A budget trailer bill, strongly supported by Senators [Joseph] Dunn and [Dick] Ackerman, as well as Senate President Pro Tem John Burton, Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez, and Governor [Arnold] Schwarzenegger, included a very important revision to the process by which the judicial branch budget is considered by the other branches. This new provision will go a long way toward ensuring stable and predictable trial court funding.

Under the new approach, an automatic adjustment to the base funding for trial court operating costs will be included each new budget year. The adjustment will be based on the percentage change in a figure called the State Appropriations Limit—a measure used by the Legislature to calculate its year-to-year budget adjustments. The State Appropriations Limit is determined through a formula that includes changes in per capita personal income and changes in population.

In addition, under the new budget process, our proposed budget for the trial courts will be submitted concurrently to both the Legislature and the Governor. Under the existing procedure, the budget had been submitted initially to the Governor, and only those items approved by the Department of Finance (DOF) were included in the budget proposal presented by the Governor to the Legislature.

Budget control language sponsored by the Judicial Council and carried by Senator Ackerman directs the DOF to work with the judicial branch to improve the budget process to ensure that baseline funding for the trial courts is at a level sufficient to support annual court operations. In establishing this process, we anticipate developing workload staffing and resource models and determining best practices for court operations. . . .

#### LOCAL COURT PROGRAMS SERVE PUBLIC

Independence as a branch encompasses more than budgeting and facility transfers, of course. These ultimately are means to an end: building the trust and confidence of the public and maintaining a judicial system capable of dispensing fair and accessible justice. The service provided by the courts to the public has come to include far more than the basic adjudication of cases. As you know, improving access and expanding court-community interchanges to ensure better responsiveness to the public's needs have been hallmarks of our judicial system. The list of programs developed by local courts, often in close coordination with local bars, and on a statewide basis continues to grow.

These programs include, for example, drug and domestic violence courts, alternative dispute resolution programs, complex litigation courts, self-help centers and Web sites to assist unrepresented litigants, and community outreach efforts—including special Supreme Court sessions conducted in nontraditional venues with an educational component focused on students.

#### SUPREME COURT REGULATION OF ATTORNEYS

The California Supreme Court has also been active in carrying out its responsibility to supervise the practice of law. The rules have been revised, effective next month, to permit lawyers not licensed in California to practice within this state in carefully defined circumstances. After input from the bar, the court also adopted rules permitting lawyers to breach their duty of confidentiality if they become aware, through their representation, of potential harm to other persons. Additionally, the court continues to consider recommendations from a committee appointed to review the lawyer regulation system. . . .

#### CAPITAL HABEAS CORPUS MATTERS

With the court's cooperation and encouragement, the Habeas Corpus Resource Center, with assistance from the California Appellate Project, has launched a major project to qualify, attract, and offer guidance to law firms willing to accept appointment as counsel to handle certain capital habeas corpus matters.

The resource center provides sophisticated and targeted training and assistance for these law firms, and Lynne Coffin, former State Public Defender, has contracted with the court to directly mentor them. The response from the firms that have been appointed to date and begun the process has been very positive, and I encourage more of you to consider this program. It offers unique training, including writing skills and organizational instruction transferable to almost any case, and a chance to make a quasi-pro bono contribution for which you will in fact receive meaningful compensation. . . .

#### REVISING APPELLATE RULES, JURY INSTRUCTIONS

Other efforts to improve and facilitate the practice of law continue. The difficult task of revising the appellate rules of court has been completed under the leadership of my colleague Justice Joyce Kennard and the Judicial Council's Appellate Advisory Committee, which she chairs.

The new plain-language civil jury instructions, developed by the Judicial Council under the stewardship of Court of Appeal Justice James Ward, have been embraced by lawyers and courts across the state, and their use continues to be monitored closely to determine whether revisions are in order. There have been several circulations of criminal jury instructions for comment, and the committee working on their development, headed by Court of Appeal Justice Carol Corrigan, hopes to complete its work in approximately one more year.

#### TECHNOLOGY IMPROVING CASE MANAGEMENT

Advances in technology, particularly the development of a uniform case management system, are aimed at improving the internal management of cases and at providing more information more easily for the public and litigants. Information on cases in which there is great public and media interest has been made electronically available, and we are moving toward electronic case filing as well. . . .

#### GUARDIANS OF THE RULE OF LAW

Our court system is becoming ever more worthy of the designation “judicial branch.” We have taken on unprecedented responsibility for improving access, providing accurate fiscal information, and better communicating with lawyers, litigants, and the public. We have become active guardians of judicial independence and of the rule of law.

These days we sometimes hear the courts and the bar criticized as impediments to the best interests of our nation. I disagree. The judges and lawyers of our state are committed guardians of the rule of law and of the rights of all Californians. Every day they can be found reaching out to all segments of the community, developing programs to assist self-represented and underserved litigants, contributing pro bono services, representing clients ethically and effectively, and impartially adjudicating civil disputes and criminal charges. In my view, our legal and judicial system—and those who labor in its law offices and courthouses—deserve praise and gratitude from those who cherish our nation and the freedoms it extols.

As Chief Justice of California, I have the great honor and opportunity to work with extraordinary members of the bench, court staff, and the bar every day. They continue to amaze me with their vision and to inspire me with their dedication. Together we have made a difference. Together we can do more.

Take  
Note

For the full  
text of the  
Chief Justice's  
State of the

Judiciary address, visit the  
California Courts Web site  
at [www.courtinfo.ca.gov](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/soj100904.htm)  
/reference/soj100904.htm.



## Judicial Council Action

# Council Approves Online Access To High-Profile Cases

The Judicial Council at its October 15 business meeting adopted a new rule of court that will allow courts to post criminal records on the Internet in high-profile trials. Effective January 1, 2005, the rule balances the public's right to information with the privacy concerns of victims, witnesses, and parties.

The newly amended rule 2073 of the California Rules of Court creates an exception to California's current prohibition against remote online access to criminal records and allows access for the public and press to court Web sites containing online criminal documents. Personal information in criminal records—such as social security numbers and driver's license numbers—will be redacted (excised) by courts before the records are posted.

In adopting the rule, the council considered the successful experiences of three trial courts—the Superior Courts of San Mateo, Santa Barbara, and Stanislaus Counties. These courts reported that the posting of criminal records had relieved their staffs of the significant burden of responding to an extraordinarily large number of requests for information on high-profile cases.

### OTHER ACTIONS

In other actions, the council approved more than 45 proposals for new or amended rules in the California Rules of Court, which govern court practice and procedure. The actions include the following:

- **Jury Service** Adopted a new rule that (1) implements a new statutory requirement to accommodate the jury service scheduling needs of certain peace officers and (2) recommends a new accommodation for all prospective jurors, where practical—a one-time deferral of jury service on request.

- **Jury Instructions** Approved the publication of revisions to the Judicial Council's civil jury instructions to reflect new developments in the law

and to improve clarity and accuracy. The civil jury instructions were first published in September 2003 and were last amended in April 2004.

- **Complex Civil Actions** Adopted new and amended rules that will (1) reduce the time required to assign a coordination trial judge, (2) provide for the fair and efficient handling of coordination petitions and add-on cases, and (3) address the common misperception that cases are usually coordinated in the location requested by the petitioner even when it is not the most appropriate site.

- **Drop Box Deposits for Filing** Adopted a new rule that would require each trial court to provide a drop box for depositing documents if the clerk's office closes at any time between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

- **Family and Juvenile Law** Made rule amendments that clarify the standards for education, training, and experience of mediators and evaluators in family and juvenile law and child custody proceedings.

- **Domestic Partnerships** Adopted new rules and forms that conform to statutory changes in privacy notices and to procedures for domestic partnership dissolution, legal separation, and annulment.

- **Advisory Committee Membership** Adopted an amended rule to clarify the authority of the Chief Justice to appoint judicial officers with fewer than two years on the bench to shortened advisory committee terms. The change would facilitate the development of a program for new judicial officers in which they would serve one-year terms on advisory committees. ■

## Listen to Council Meetings Live, View Reports Online

Reports and materials considered by the Judicial Council at its business meetings are now available prior to each meeting as links in the agenda posted on the California Courts Web site at [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courtadmin/jc/](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courtadmin/jc/). Council meetings are audio-cast live and archived at the same Web address.

In addition, archives of reports to the council on proposals for new and amended California Rules of Court, standards of judicial administration, Judicial Council jury instructions, and Judicial Council forms can be found at [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/rules/reports/](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/rules/reports/) and [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/forms/reports/](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/forms/reports/).

## Court Adoption and Permanency Month

For the sixth consecutive year, the Judicial Council passed a resolution proclaiming that November is California's Court Adoption and Permanency Month. The resolution—which this year was signed by Chief Justice Ronald M. George at the council's October 15 business meeting—focuses attention on securing permanent homes for children in the state's foster care system by encouraging courts and communities to address the importance of adoption and permanency planning in their counties.

Californians Betty and Bill Valentine and their adopted children were present for the resolution signing. The Valentines came to show their support for the judicial branch's commitment to adoption and permanency for

children. Joining Chief Justice George and the Valentines for the event were (from top left) Patty Fitzsimmons, now an attorney in the Administrative Office of the Courts' Center for Families, Children & the Courts (CFCC), who before joining CFCC represented two of the children adopted by the Valentines; Diane Nunn, Director of CFCC; and Judge Michael Nash, who presides over the Superior Court of Los Angeles County's juvenile court.



## Finding Homes for Children

A new educational program sponsored by the California Department of Social Services is helping courts find homes for the nearly 98,000 children in California who are living apart from their families in out-of-home care.

The Permanency Project, developed by the Administrative Office of the Courts' Center for Families, Children & the Courts (CFCC), provides training on issues related to permanency, including reunification as a

permanency option, concurrent planning, and termination of parental rights. The trainings are designed specifically for judicial officers but may be made available to attorneys and staff from social services and probation departments at the option of the presiding juvenile court judge.

As funding permits, CFCC will also provide workshops tailored to the needs of individual juvenile court systems. CFCC staff will confer with local stakeholders (the presiding juvenile

court judge, other juvenile court judicial officers, court staff, attorneys, and agency representatives) to ascertain some of the key challenges to achieving permanency in a timely manner in a particular county. Based on the profile gleaned from these local participants, the staff will create a one- to three-hour training.

- For more information on the Permanency Project, contact Jennifer Walter, CFCC, 415-865-7687; e-mail: [jennifer.walter@jud.ca.gov](mailto:jennifer.walter@jud.ca.gov). ■

## Guide to Celebrating Adoption Month

The Judicial Council's *Court Adoption and Permanency Month Technical Assistance Package* contains general guidelines for planning events during Court Adoption and Permanency Month (November). It lists ways in which both small and large courts and counties have recognized Adoption Month in the past. It also includes a section on working with the media and provides ideas for making the month a catalyst for systemic change.

Initially released in 1999, the technical assistance package is reviewed and updated annually by Center for Families, Children & the Courts (CFCC) staff.

- To request a copy of the package, contact Audrey Evje, CFCC, 415-865-7706; e-mail: [audrey.evje@jud.ca.gov](mailto:audrey.evje@jud.ca.gov).

## In the News

# Volunteers Help Demystify Court

An article in the September 22 edition of the *Dispatch* (Gilroy) spotlighted a new volunteer and intern program that makes courts more user-friendly.

The story described how the Superior Courts of Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz Counties have teamed up in recruiting community members to volunteer at the courts to help educate visitors about court processes and services. It states that the volunteer program will include positions such as judicial intern, legal assistant, computer aide, information assistant, and interpreter.

The article also provided readers with a Web address (<http://www.superiorcourt.org/volunteer/>) where interested individuals can find out how to become a volunteer. The Web site contains a description of the program, links to the four participating courts' Web sites, and an online application form.

The article in the *Dispatch* brought attention to an innovative court program that aims to help litigants navigate the legal system.

### Other courts in the news:

**‘Alameda Court Opens in Oakland Homeless Shelter,’**  
*North Gate News Online* (Berkeley), October 24, 2004; **‘Homeless**  
**Court Brings Justice to Shelters, Drop-in Centers,’**  
*Berkeley Daily Planet*, October 19, 2004

Featured the first session of Alameda County's Homeless/Caring Court, in which fines for offenses are suspended in favor of alternative sentencing strategies consisting of education, substance abuse treatment, and community service.

**'Truants Have Their Day in His Court,'** *Orange County Register* (Santa Ana), October 21, 2004

Detailed the Superior Court of Orange County's Truancy Court, which specializes in hard-core truants and is credited with keeping thousands of students in school.

**‘Where’s the “Duty”? Jurors in L.A. Are Known No-Shows,’** *National Law Journal* (New York), October 18, 2004; **‘Judges Fed Up With Jury Duty Dodgers, Handing Out Harsher Penalties,’** *Sentinel* (Los Angeles), October 14, 2004; **‘The Jurors Are Out,’** *Press Telegram* (Long Beach), September 9, 2004; **‘Jury Dodgers Face Public Shaming, Fines—But Problem Persists,’** *San Diego Union-Tribune*, September 7, 2004; **‘Long Beach Court Orders Jurors to Appear at Sanctions Hearings,’** *Long Beach Reporter*, September 3, 2004; **‘County Jury Scofflaws Get Lesson,’** *Long Beach Press Telegram*, September 2, 2004; **‘Citizen of California Must Serve as Juror,’** *Antelope Valley Press* (Palmdale), August 21, 2004

Described efforts of the Superior Court of Los Angeles County to increase its jury pools by fining no-shows and by dedicating courtrooms around the county to handling sanction hearings for citizens who refuse to fulfill their jury service.

**‘San Bernardino Dedicates State-of-the-Art Dependency Court,’** *Daily Journal* (Los Angeles), October 8, 2004

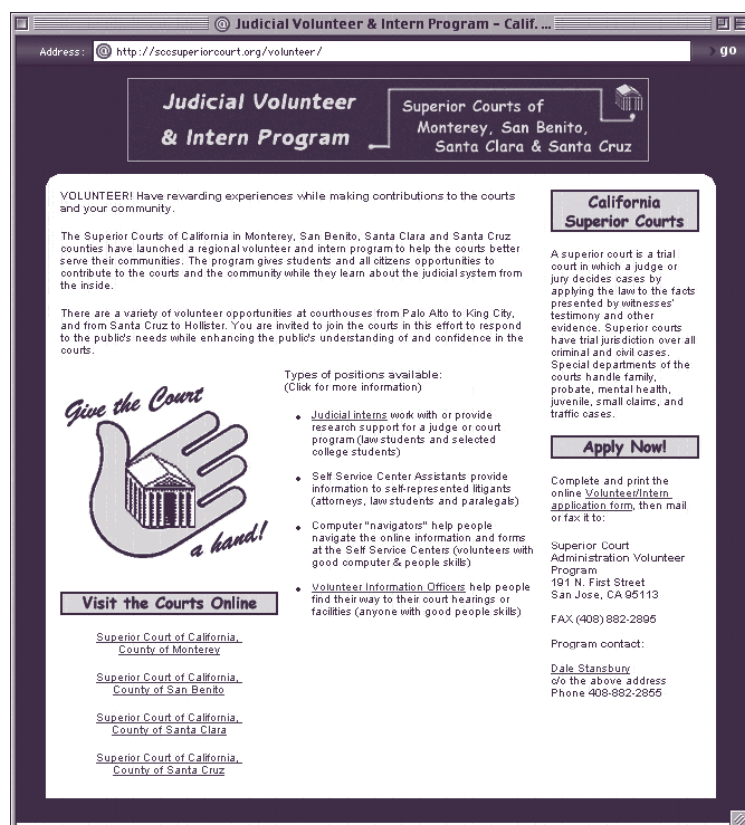
Described the Superior Court of San Bernardino County's new juvenile dependency courthouse, which contains a children's waiting room and large conference rooms where attorneys, children, and social workers can meet.

**‘Superior Judges to Gather at Town Hall,’** *Town Crier* (Los Altos), October 6, 2004; **‘Judges to Lift Veil on System,’** *Palo Alto Daily News*, October 6, 2004

Announced that a panel of judges from the Superior Court of Santa Clara County would conduct a town hall meeting to provide residents with general information about the court system.

**'Abused Seniors Turn to Alameda Court for Help,'** *California Bar Journal* (San Francisco), October 2004

Detailed the Superior Court of Alameda County's special elder abuse court session, which is held every Friday and caters to senior citizens seeking protective orders.



A recent article in the *Dispatch* (Gilroy) described how the Superior Courts of Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz Counties have teamed up in recruiting community members to volunteer at the courts to help educate visitors about court processes and services.

**'Encouraged to Stay Out,'** *Daily Journal* (San Francisco), September 21, 2004

Featured the Superior Court of San Francisco County's Behavioral Health Court, where defendants suffering from mental disorders or substance abuse problems resolve their criminal cases through counseling and 12-step programs.

**'Fontana Drug Court Holds First Graduation Ceremony,'**  
*Fontana Herald News*, September 9, 2004

Reported on the graduation ceremony for the drug treatment court in Fontana and highlighted the facts that 77 percent of the court's graduates have not been re-arrested and 83 percent were employed at the time of graduation.

**‘Strokes & Chokes,’** *Desert Post Weekly* (Cathedral City), September 9, 2004; **‘County Court Web Site Among World’s Best,’** *Desert Sun* (Palm Springs), September 7, 2004

Announced that the Superior Court of Riverside County's Web site had been named one of the Top 10 Court Web Sites of 2004 by Justice Served, and provided information on the helpful features and services the site provides.

**‘Just a Few Serve on Juries,’** *Ukiah Daily Journal*, August 31, 2004

Explained the Superior Court of Mendocino County's process for summoning prospective jurors and its penalties for not reporting for jury duty.

**‘High Tech Solution Brings Old Napa County Court-  
house Records Into View,’** *Napa Valley Register*, August 30,  
2004

Described the Superior Court of Napa County's unveiling of a new system that allows researchers to search old cases electronically.

**‘Court Program Helps Homeless,’** *San Diego Union-Tribune*,  
August 19, 2004

Detailed the Superior Court of San Diego County's homeless court program, which dismisses misdemeanor violations, warrants, or citations for people willing to invest in self-improvement. ■



# New Domestic Partners Law Effective January 1

The California Domestic Partner Rights and Responsibilities Act, signed last fall and effective January 1, 2005, gives domestic partners who have registered under California law most of the rights and responsibilities of spouses. The same legal procedures and substantive rules will apply to both groups, meaning that courts must update numerous rules and forms that make gender-specific references or that limit their application to “spouses” or “marriages.” (See

story in May–June 2004 edition of *Court News*.)

## LEGISLATION EXPANDS DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIPS

The act, Assembly Bill 205 (Goldberg), greatly expands the rights and duties of registered domestic partners. The changes will affect dissolution of domestic relationships, obligation for community debts, presumptions of parenthood, child custody, the evidentiary privilege applied to confidential spousal communi-

cations, and many other areas of the law.

To help courts implement the legislation, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) has been updating judges, court staff, and court practitioners on the changes to the law via AOC-TV satellite broadcasts, the Court Clerk Training Institute, the State Bar Annual Conference, and other educational programs.

● To view an archived copy of the November 3 AOC-TV broadcast or to find additional

resources on AB 205, visit [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/cjer/aocv/ab205/](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/cjer/aocv/ab205/). For more information, contact Donna Clay-Conti, AOC Office of the General Counsel, 415-865-7911; e-mail: [donna.clay-conti@jud.ca.gov](mailto:donna.clay-conti@jud.ca.gov), or review the legislation at [www.leginfo.ca.gov/](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/). ■

## New Judicial Council Rules and Forms

Assembly Bill 205 provides that, effective January 1, 2005—with a few express exceptions—registered domestic partners “shall have the same rights, protections, and benefits, and shall be subject to the same responsibilities, obligations, and duties under the law . . . as are granted to and imposed upon spouses.”

In response, the Judicial Council at its October 15 meeting approved more than 20 new and amended rules and forms to conform to the new law. These include rules 5.28 and 5.102 of the California Rules of Court and Judicial Council forms FL-103, FL-110, FL-115, FL-117, FL-123, FL-145, FL-150, FL-165, FL-170, FL-180, FL-190, FL-310, FL-311, FL-341, FL-341(B), FL-341(C), FL-341(D), FL-341(E), FL-343, FL-344, FL-345, FL-435, and FL-450.

● To view new and amended rules of court, visit [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/rules/amendments.htm](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/rules/amendments.htm). To view new and revised forms, visit [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/forms/latest.htm](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/forms/latest.htm).

# Measuring Public Trust and Confidence in the Courts

CATHARINE PRICE

The California judicial branch in November began the first survey of the public’s trust and confidence in the courts since 1992.

During the last 12 years, California’s courts have gone through dramatic systemic changes, including the transition to state funding, trial court unification, and the establishment of one-day or one-trial jury service. Considering these changes and the evolving makeup of the state’s demographics, the primary purposes of the study are to: measure respondents’ confidence in the courts, evaluate court performance, facilitate understanding of why levels of confidence and rated performance

vary among individuals and between groups, and compare Californians’ perspectives with other states.

## HOW STUDY WILL BE CONDUCTED, USED

Researchers from the Public Research Institute (PRI) of San Francisco State University will interview 2,400 randomly selected Californians. To ensure accurate representation of minorities, the 2,400 subjects will include targeted samplings of Hispanics, Asian Americans, and African Americans. Surveys will be conducted in English, Spanish, Cantonese, and Mandarin. In addition, interviewers will separately survey 500 practicing attorneys.

The survey results will be presented at the September 2005 Statewide Judicial Branch Conference. In addition, the Judicial Council will use the results to help set its priorities for the 2006 six-year Judicial Council Strategic Plan, as well as the 2005 revision of the council’s operational plan.

The survey is a collaborative effort of the Administrative Office of the Courts, the State Bar of California, and the National Center for State Courts.

● For more information, contact Catharine Price, Planning and Effective Programs Unit, Administrative Office of the Courts, 415-865-7783; e-mail: [cat.price@jud.ca.gov](mailto:cat.price@jud.ca.gov). ■

## Nevada County Court Partners With Schools for Law Day

This year’s Law Day celebration at the Superior Court of Nevada County was novel not only because it was held in September instead of May (the usual month for Law Day events) but because every fifth-grade class in the western Nevada County school district participated in the event.

The school district includes civics as part of the curriculum for all its fifth-grade students. The district worked with the superior court to give the children tours of the courthouse and information on the legal system, helping them get a look at civics issues in person. Nearly 650 students participated in this year’s tours, held on September 24.

The students visited two courtrooms and a jail facility no longer used by the court. The public defender, the district attorney, and Judges Carl F. Bryan II and Robert Lynn Tamietti explained the role of the court and the differences among criminal, family law, and juvenile courts. Students were treated to a mock trial and an explanation of the juvenile drug court. In addition, representatives of the

California Highway Patrol, State Parks Department, Department of Fish and Game, and local law enforcement agencies explained their roles in the justice system and the basic constitutional rights of all citizens.

## COLLABORATION ENSURES SUCCESS

“Our Law Day is successful because of the collaboration with the school district,” says Michael Glisson, Assistant Court Executive Officer in Nevada County. “We have dovetailed our outreach goals with the school’s curriculum goals.”

The costs of the event were shared by the school district and the court, says Mr. Glisson. The court’s main contribution was staff volunteers who served as guides and hall monitors and assisted with presentations. The court also gave the students copies of the Constitution and pencils bearing the court’s logo. The school district provided transportation and lunches for the volunteers.

● For more information, contact Michael Glisson, 530-265-7113; e-mail: [michael.glisson@nevadacountycourts.com](mailto:michael.glisson@nevadacountycourts.com).



California Highway Patrol Officer Greg Thys conducts a sobriety test on a student volunteer using visual impairment goggles. The demonstration was part of the Superior Court of Nevada County’s Law Day event on September 24. Nearly 650 fifth-grade students took tours of the courthouse and received information on the legal system. *Photo: Courtesy of the Superior Court of Nevada County*

# New Director of AOC Office Of Governmental Affairs



Kathleen Howard



Ray LeBov

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) appointed Kathleen Howard the new director of its Office of Governmental Affairs (OGA), which directs the Judicial Council's legislative advocacy program for the California courts. Ms. Howard succeeds Ray LeBov, who retires after 29 years of state service and is continuing his legislative advocacy career in the private sector.

Prior to her appointment, Ms. Howard served as assistant director of OGA. She had worked in the legal and finance divisions of the AOC before joining OGA in 1993.

"For several years, Kate has played a leadership role in that office and has served as an excellent representative of the judicial branch," says Chief Justice Ronald M. George. "It has been a pleasure for me and for the entire Judicial Council to work with her, and I know she will continue OGA's close and cooperative relationships with the Governor's office and with members of the legislative branch."

Ms. Howard has been responsible for coordinating the development of Judicial Council-sponsored legislation on a wide range of issues affecting state courts, including family law, domestic violence, juvenile dependency, judicial education, subordinate judicial officers, and judicial retirement. She was the lead OGA staff to the council's Court Fees Working Group earlier this year and was instrumental in organizing the Stable Funding Conference for court and bar leaders in 2003.

Mr. LeBov praises Ms. Howard's selection as his successor. "She brings extraordinary talents and experience to the position, including a nuanced understanding of the unique dynamics of the other branches of state government. She has established an outstanding reputation with all three governmental branches through her work as an advocate and as assistant director of the Office of Governmental Affairs."

## LEBOV RETIRES FROM STATE SERVICE

Ray LeBov was appointed director of the AOC's Office of Governmental Affairs in 1992. Prior to joining the AOC, he served as staff counsel to committees in the California Legislature, including the Assembly Committee on the Judiciary from 1979 to 1991 and the Joint Committee on the Structure of the Judiciary in 1975.

In 2003 Mr. LeBov received the Distinguished Service Award for Judicial Administration. While presenting the award, Chief Justice George reflected that, "for the past 13 years, Ray has masterfully directed the Judicial Council's legislative agenda and has served as the council's representative in complex collaborations with the legislative and executive branches that have resulted in fundamental reforms in the court system. Our branch has indeed been very fortunate to have Ray on our side. I have had the pleasure of working with Ray on almost a

daily basis. His wise counsel and in-depth experience, steady temperament, and good humor have been invaluable to me time and again."

In August of this year, Senator Martha Escutia and Assembly Member Ellen M. Corbett, chairs of the Senate and Assembly Judiciary Committees, presented Mr. LeBov with a joint resolution praising his effective advocacy on behalf of the judicial branch. The Judicial Council presented him with a similar resolution at its October 15 business meeting.

The council's resolution states that since William C. Vickrey, Administrative Director of the Courts, appointed Mr. LeBov director of the Office of Governmental Affairs, Mr. LeBov "has been a constant partner in improving California's court system for the benefit of the public [and] is a respected advocate and an effective consensus builder," and that "his hard work has helped make many aspirations and dreams for judicial system reform a reality." ■

## Move Toward Statewide Administration Of Justice

The transfer of the Larson Justice Center in Indio from county to state governance represents the latest phase of California's transition to a unified statewide court system. Following is a brief timeline highlighting the major legislation and initiatives that were integral to the development of a statewide justice system.

**1997 Lockyer-Isenberg Trial Court Funding Act (Assem. Bill 233)** Makes funding of court operations a state responsibility and provides the courts with their first statewide funding system.

**1998 Proposition 220** Passed by California voters, it provides for voluntary unification of the superior and municipal courts in each county into a one-tier trial court system.

**2000 Trial Court Employment Protection and Governance Act (Sen. Bill 2140)** Makes court personnel "trial court employees" and no longer employees of the county.

**2002 Trial Court Facilities Act (Sen. Bill 1732)** Shifts governance of California's courthouses from the counties to the state.

## Courthouse Transfer

*Continued from page 1*

The courts—not the state—will continue to administer court employees' human resources management systems, including payroll and benefits. In addition, the transfers will not affect the courts' accounting or information technology administration.

"We've enjoyed a good working relationship with the county, but I'm energized by the transfer," says Inga McElyea, Executive Officer of the Superior Court of Riverside County. "It has already raised the bar in terms of facilities services we're receiving. I've always loved the

term 'temples of justice,' and I feel that now we're in the care of an entity that really understands the relationship between our buildings and our work."

## NEXT STEPS

The plan is for Riverside County's remaining 17 court facilities to transfer to the state within the next 12 months.

In addition to the transfers, OCCM has new construction projects slated for all 58 superior courts and hopes that more than 200 courthouse construction and renovation projects will be under way or completed within the next five years. Funding for these projects depends on a general obligation bond that is scheduled to be on the statewide

ballot in 2006. Support from the public, justice partners, the State Bar, county governments, and the California Legislature will be critical to the bond's success at the polls.

● For more information on court facilities, visit [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/) or contact the AOC Office of Court Construction and Management, 415-865-8720. ■



Completed in 1996, the Larson Justice Center in Indio is among California's most modern courthouses, featuring a sophisticated electronics system, video arraignment capabilities, and a secure underground tunnel connecting it with the county jail. Its transfer to the state is part of the implementation of the Trial Court Facilities Act of 2002, which shifted the governance of California's approximately 450 courthouse facilities from the counties to the state. Photo: Stuart Smith, Avant Studio

## New Court Facilities Task Force Gets to Work

MICHAEL YUEN

The Court Facilities Transitional Task Force convened for the first time on November 2. The task force will address a broad range of issues related to acquisition, construction, design, maintenance, and operation of court facilities.

The new task force, created by rule 6.60 of the California Rules of Court, will focus on the transfer of court facilities from counties to the state over the next three years.

"We have a number of major issues to tackle as we develop strategies for the operation of over 400 existing court facilities, as well as planning for the future facility needs of every court in our state," said Presiding Judge Brad R. Hill of the Superior Court of Fresno County, who chairs the task force. The task force consists of judicial officers, court administrators, State Bar members, an architect, an engineer, and a construction professional.

Staff from the Administrative Office of the Courts will work with the task force to craft policy options for consideration by the new Interim Court Facilities Panel, an internal committee of the Judicial Council. The panel will then make recommendations for consideration by the full council.

● For more information about the Court Facilities Transitional Task Force, including a roster of members and reports on meetings, visit <http://serranus.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/cfttf.htm>.



# Shrinking the Family Law Docket

## San Diego Program Cuts Disposition Time for Pro Per Litigants

FRANCES HARRISON, FAMILY LAW FACILITATOR, SUPERIOR COURT OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY

DEBORAH CHASE, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS, CENTER FOR FAMILIES, CHILDREN & THE COURTS

In San Diego County, as throughout the state and the nation, the percentage of family law cases brought by pro per litigants has been steadily increasing. But a new San Diego County court program to keep up with this surge is resolving a large number of the court's pro per filings related to marriage dissolution and paternity within one year.

### SAN DIEGO TAKES THE INITIATIVE

In San Diego, the percentage of pro per filings in family court has risen from 54 percent in the early 1990s to approximately 70 percent today. Moreover, data collected by the family law facilitator identified that pro per litigants had significant problems understanding and accurately filing the required court papers subsequent to the initial filing, and that these types of problems contributed to delays in moving cases to disposition.

After conducting a review of programs used by other jurisdictions, the court in 2002 developed, tested, and implemented a courtwide initiative to reach a

disposition within one year of filing by a pro per litigant in a family law case. This target is consistent with the family law case disposition standards of the American Bar Association and the Conference of State Court Administrators.

### HOW IT WORKS

The initiative applies only to filings for dissolution (except summary dissolution), legal separation, and nullity and to Uniform Parentage Act paternity filings. At filing, the court advises pro pers that a status review conference with the family law facilitator will occur in 150 days. If the case is unresolved 90 days after filing, the court sends parties additional notice of the date of the status conference, including detailed information about the specific requirements they must meet prior to that date.

The parties may request one continuance by telephone up to one day before the conference date; this must be by stipulation if the respondent has appeared. Additional continuances may be requested with an ex parte declaration showing good cause. For any noncompliance, the court may set an order to show cause why sanctions, which may include dismissal of the case, should not be imposed. These provisions are specified in the status conference notice.

### PROGRAM RESULTS

The court's special projects unit conducted studies to determine the times to disposition of family law cases in its central division both prior to the initiative and after it had been in place for 15 months. The pre- versus post-initiative results are striking.

The number of pro per cases disposed of within one year increased from 66 percent to nearly 90 percent, and dispositions within 14 months reached 93 percent. The study also showed that many cases did not proceed to the scheduled status conference but actually were concluded prior to the conference.

Based on the improvement in the time to disposition for the eligible cases, it appears that the parties' awareness of the scheduled conference and the requirements necessary to prepare for it, together with the available assistance of the family law facilitator, served as an impetus for the parties to be proactive in taking the steps necessary to dispose of their cases in a timely manner.

### EXPANDING FAMILY LAW FACILITATOR PROGRAM

A critical element of San Diego's initiative has been the expansion of its family law facilitator (FLF) program. The FLF conducts all status conferences for cases in which both parties are self-represented. The FLF reviews court files to check the paperwork, check the existence and validity of a *Proof of Service of Summons*, and determine what the parties must do to bring their case to disposition. If there is no valid proof of service, the FLF instructs the petitioner at the time of the status conference on how to accomplish proper service and complete a proof of service form correctly.

When both parties are present at the status conference and wish to settle the case, the FLF provides divorce mediation and a judgment form to assist in focusing the issues. The FLF assists parties who have an agreement in drafting a stipulated judgment. If the respondent has not filed a response, the FLF helps the petitioner draft the proposed judgment.

San Diego's initiative was first implemented in the court's central division family court in September 2002 and was later adopted as a family law local rule of court and implemented in the court's three other family court divisions. The program and its related local court rules have been amended and are now included in 2005 rules 5.12 and 5.13, which can be found on the court's Web site at [www.sandiego.courts.ca.gov/superior/](http://www.sandiego.courts.ca.gov/superior/).

● For more information, contact Judge William J. Howatt, Jr., Supervising Family Law Judge, 619-557-2003, or Frances Harrison, Family Law Facilitator, 619-685-6254. ■

## Lessons Learned

Data maintained by the Superior Court of San Diego County's family law facilitator program tracks the reasons that pro pers fail to complete their cases. For example, more than 50 percent of the cases set for status conferences have no valid *Proof of Service of Summons* in the files. In response to inquiries at status conferences, parties gave one or more of the following reasons for not completing their cases. The parties:

- Didn't know there was anything else to do;
- Were waiting to hear from the court;
- Were trying to reach an agreement;
- Were trying to reconcile;
- Couldn't afford a lawyer or other help to finish;
- Couldn't find the other party;
- Had their papers rejected by the clerk; and/or
- Thought they were required to wait six months.

### JusticeCorps

Continued from page 1

individualized services and will assist center staff in improving the accuracy and thoroughness of self-represented litigants' paperwork and case preparation.

JusticeCorps members will be individually assigned to 10 different self-help legal access centers, family law information centers, and the small claims advisor's office. They will provide general assistance such as directions, parking information, and referrals to an appropriate resource, such as one-on-one help from a center attorney or a group workshop. They will also assist litigants with forms in hard copy and at computer terminals and with written correspondence, and will help them understand follow-up procedures after judicial orders have been issued.

Many JusticeCorps members from Hispanic, Russian, and other diverse backgrounds will assist centers in meeting the needs of clients who speak languages other than English.

"We are so pleased with the diversity represented by these students," says Kathleen Dixon, managing attorney for the court's Self-Help Management Project and JusticeCorps supervisor. "Many of them speak multiple languages and will be able to translate and offer understanding to people of similar cultures trying to use the justice system."

### STUDENTS GAIN EXPERIENCE

Most of the students in the JusticeCorps program are majoring in political science, public administration, or women's studies. Many are planning to go to law school and see the JusticeCorps program as an invaluable way to get experience in the court system that they cannot get in the classroom.

California Supreme Court Justice Ming W. Chin made a special appearance at the Los Angeles court to address the attendees at the inaugural ceremony. In his remarks, Justice Chin highlighted the benefits of the program not only for the courts and the community but also for the students.

"In the future, whether you go on to a career in public service or pursue a career in law, social work, teaching, or whatever other profession you may choose, I hope that this time you will spend assisting fellow members of your community will leave a lasting impression about the critical importance of equal access to justice," said Justice Chin.

The JusticeCorps program is a collaborative effort of the AOC, the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, the Los Angeles County Department of Consumer Affairs, California State University at Northridge, California State University at Dominguez Hills, California State Polytechnic University at Pomona, the University of California at Los Angeles, the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, Neighborhood Legal Services, and the Legal Aid Society of Orange County.

The JusticeCorps program is funded through a \$750,000 three-year AmeriCorps grant supplemented with additional funds from the AOC. Developed by the AOC and the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, the program is envisioned as a pilot

for future replication throughout the state.

● For more information, contact Kathleen Dixon, Superior Court of Los Angeles County, 213-893-2942; e-mail: [kdixon@lasuperiorcourt.org](mailto:kdixon@lasuperiorcourt.org), or Martha Wright, AOC Grants Unit, 415-865-7649; e-mail: [martha.wright@jud.ca.gov](mailto:martha.wright@jud.ca.gov). ■



Presiding Judge Robert A. Dukes swore in local college students to JusticeCorps, a first-of-its-kind AmeriCorps program to provide assistance in overburdened self-help legal access centers throughout Los Angeles County. JusticeCorps volunteers took their pledge of service at an inaugural ceremony held at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse in downtown Los Angeles on October 20. Photo: Courtesy of the Superior Court of Los Angeles County



# Study to Improve Dependency System

The state's judicial branch is conducting a study with the aim of improving the way California courts handle cases involving child abuse and neglect.

The goals of the statewide Court Improvement Project Reassessment are to use research findings to recommend new or revised statutes, rules of court, and standards of judicial administration; suggest changes or additions to local rules, protocols, and procedures; create training

opportunities for judicial officers, attorneys, and other juvenile court participants; identify areas where additional research is needed; and highlight successful local strategies and programs so they can be replicated in other courts.

The study must be conducted in order for California to continue receiving federal Court Improvement Program funds. The state's reassessment must respond to both the results of a federal review conducted in California in 2002 and the requirements of the Program Improvement Plan that California prepared in response to that review.

istrators, attorneys, and child welfare directors) to help them evaluate court operations and outcomes in dependency cases.

The study involves site visits to juvenile dependency courts in San Diego, Los Angeles, Tulare, Santa Clara, Sacramento, and Humboldt Counties—a sampling chosen to incorporate the perspectives of a wide range of stakeholders. The first round of site visits was conducted in October and November 2004, and each of the courts will be visited at least once more in the coming months. Researchers are conducting interviews and focus groups with judicial officers, court staff, attorneys, Court Appointed Special Advocates volunteers, social workers, tribal representatives, parents, and foster parents.

The site visits will be an opportunity to learn from individuals in each court about innovative programs and about the challenges and successes that each court has experienced. Project staff will also analyze statistics drawn from case management systems or from a review of case files.

A final report will be completed and submitted to the federal government by June 2005.

● For more information on the Court Improvement Project Reassessment, contact Mara Bernstein, Center for Families, Children & the Courts, 415-865-7728; e-mail: [mara.bernstein@jud.ca.gov](mailto:mara.bernstein@jud.ca.gov). ■

## Court Improvement Program

The federal Court Improvement Program (CIP), administered by the Children's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is a grant program established in 1994 in response to the dramatic national increase in child abuse and neglect cases and the expanded role of courts in achieving stable, permanent homes for children in foster care.

Initially, grant recipients, including California, developed recommendations to improve the juvenile court system and worked toward implementing them. The scope of the program has since been expanded to emphasize improvements needed to provide for the safety, well-being, and permanence of children in foster care, as set forth in the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997. California's CIP is administered by the Administrative Office of the Court's Center for Families, Children & the Courts.

### RESEARCH TOOLS

Project staff are analyzing California's compliance with federal statutory mandates, such as by evaluating how courts are processing child abuse and neglect cases and by reviewing California law and rules to ensure consistency with federal requirements. They are conducting statewide surveys of judicial officers and other key dependency participants (dependency court admin-

## Conference Aims to Improve Court Security

SCOTT BURRITT

More than 180 judicial officers, court administrators, and sheriff's department representatives came together September 15–17 in San Diego for the first statewide meeting of its kind to focus on emerging issues in court security.

Cosponsored by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and the California State Sheriffs' Association, the 2004 Court Security Seminar was a forum for discussing best practices in court security, court security agreements, contract and labor practices, continuity of operations, protection of dignitaries, and management of high-profile cases. Attendees had the opportunity to meet with their counterparts from around the state and to share strategies for managing court security.

"The court security conference in San Diego was the first jointly sponsored conference involving the California State Sheriffs' Association and the Administrative Office of the Courts," says Michael M. Roddy, the AOC's Northern/Central Region administrative director and a member of the statewide Working Group on Court Security. "It was a tremendous opportunity to bring these two groups together to share information and discuss common issues and concerns affecting the provision of court security services."

### JOINT COOPERATION ENCOURAGED

In his keynote address at the seminar, Senator Joseph Dunn emphasized the need for the judicial branch and sheriffs to work together, both locally and on a statewide basis, to develop viable solutions to court security problems. He suggested that proposed legislative changes and court security budget increases were more likely to be successful if the two groups provided mutually agreeable proposals to the Legislature and Governor.

According to Mr. Roddy, the feedback from sheriff's department and court participants was very positive, and the two groups are discussing the possibility of organizing future joint conferences to build on the dialogue started in San Diego. In addition, he said the Working Group on Court Security would continue to encourage the development of memoranda of understanding for court security, as well as provide technical assistance to courts as they establish security plans.

● For more information, contact Yvonne Choong, AOC Northern/Central Regional Office, 916-263-1462; e-mail: [yvonne.choong@jud.ca.gov](mailto:yvonne.choong@jud.ca.gov).

## New Online Tools for Trial Court Planning

The California superior courts will soon be able to submit their operational plans and annual strategic planning progress reports online.

### OPERATIONAL PLANS

A new section of Serranus, going live this fall, will allow trial courts to submit updated operational plans online for fiscal years 2004–2005, 2005–2006, and 2006–2007. The online template at <http://serranus.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/community/> has a simple, standardized format that allows users to cut and paste information directly into it. Users can view and print not

only their own plan submissions but also the plans submitted by other California courts.

Plan content is at the discretion of the individual court; however, the Judicial Council encourages courts to frame local objectives in the context of the 6 broad goals and 14 high-priority objectives of the council's Operational Plan for California's Judicial Branch (adopted in December 2003). This branchwide operational plan is posted on the California Courts Web site at [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/documents/opplan2003.pdf](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/documents/opplan2003.pdf).

### ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORTS ON STRATEGIC PLANNING

Beginning in March 2005, trial courts will also have the online submission option for their annual progress reports (APRs) on strategic planning. The Serranus APR template will draw objectives from the individual courts' operational plans and will feature a check-box format for reporting implementation efforts and indicators of relative priority.

The template will include fields for reporting emerging local court trends and will allow users to view and print their APR submissions.

● For more information, contact Jack Urquhart, AOC Executive Office Programs Division, 415-865-7654; e-mail: [jack.urquhart@jud.ca.gov](mailto:jack.urquhart@jud.ca.gov). ■





## Collaborative Justice Update

# Substance Abuse and Domestic Violence Court

BLAINE CORREN

**J**udges, attorneys, and other justice system professionals came together in September to discuss the possibility of creating a coordinated response to the co-occurrence of domestic violence and substance abuse by using a problem-solving court model.

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) presented a workshop on the problem-solving court model at the ninth International Conference on Family Violence, which was sponsored by the Family Violence and Sexual Assault Institute and took place September 19–22 in San Diego. The workshop was based on a roundtable discussion the AOC had conducted in the spring with national experts in the fields of domestic violence, substance abuse, and collaborative justice courts.

The AOC Center for Families, Children & the Courts (CFCC) presented a similar workshop at its Family Violence and the Courts conference on September 9–10 in San Francisco. At

the San Francisco event, Judges Stephen V. Manley and Sharon A. Chatman provided information on the Superior Court of Santa Clara County's domestic violence/substance abuse model.

Both of the presentations explored the priorities, philosophies, and structures of drug and domestic violence courts and the feasibility of coordinating the two programs. Presenters suggested that to coordinate the programs, courts would need to establish communication protocols, assess defendants for co-occurring issues, cross-train teams on substance abuse and domestic violence, and allow for a blended set of services addressing both issues.

The material summarized in the presentations will be explored more thoroughly in an upcoming edition of the *Journal of the Center for Families, Children & the Courts*, due out in September 2005.

● For more information, contact Francine Byrne, CFCC, 415-865-8069; e-mail: francine.byrne@jud.ca.gov ■

## ***Judges Reach Out at Town Hall Meeting***



The Superior Court of Santa Clara County held its inaugural judicial town hall meeting on October 6 at City Hall in Los Altos. As part of the court's efforts to reach out to the community, the town hall meetings are intended to demystify the judicial system as well as provide a forum for an exchange of information between judges and community residents.

For the October 6 meeting, a panel of seven judicial officers gave short presentations on areas of court operations and then fielded questions from the audience. The court's next town hall meeting is scheduled for February in Sunnyvale.

Pictured are (from left) Judges Socrates Peter Manoukian, Jamie A. Jacobs-May, Jack Komar, Sharon A. Chatman, Leonard P. Edwards, and Dolores A. Carr and Commissioner Deborah A. Ryan. *Photo: Courtesy of the Superior Court of Santa Clara County*

# Nominations Open For National Award

Nominations are open for the second annual Dwight D. Opperman Award for Judicial Excellence. The Opperman Award, named for the former chair and chief executive officer of West Publishing Company, is presented annually to an acting state judge or justice of a trial or appellate court who has had a distinguished career of judicial service. On September 29 the first Opperman Award was given to Shirley S. Abrahamson, Chief Justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

<sup>1</sup> To qualify for the award, nominees must have completed

at least 10 years of judicial service at a court of general civil and/or criminal jurisdiction in one of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, or Puerto Rico. The award is given to a qualified judge whose career is characterized by:

- Decisions that, through their wisdom, humanity, and commitment to the rule of law, make clear that bench, bar, and community alike would willingly entrust that judge with the most complex cases of the farthest-reaching import; and
- Writings, including opinions, lectures, or other publications, that reveal scholarship

and dedication to the improvement of the judicial process;  
and/or

- Activities that help improve the administration of justice, advance the rule of law, reinforce collegial ties within the judicial branch, or strengthen civic ties within local, national, or international communities.

Nominations for the second Opperman Award should be postmarked by February 28,

2005, and addressed to the American Judicature Society, Attention Opperman Award Selection Panel, 2700 University Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50311.

- For more information on the American Judicature Society and the Opperman Award, visit [www.ajs.org/](http://www.ajs.org/) or contact Beth Tigges, 515-271-2283; e-mail: [btigges@ajs.org](mailto:btigges@ajs.org). ■

## ***Judge Edwards Receives Rehnquist Award***




U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy (right) presents the 2004 William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence to Superior Court of Santa Clara County Judge Leonard P. Edwards at a November 18 ceremony at the United States Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. One of the most prestigious judicial honors in the country, the Rehnquist Award is given annually by the National Center for State Courts to a state court judge who exemplifies the highest levels of judicial excellence, integrity, fairness, and professional ethics. *Photo: Charles Pruitt/Bob Narod Photography*

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## Nominations open for Second Annual Opperman Award

### Summary

Wisconsin Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson received the First Annual Dwight D. Opperman Award for Judicial Excellence on September 29, 2004, in Madison, Wisconsin.

Nominations for the Second Annual Dwight D. Opperman Award for Judicial Excellence are now open. The Opperman Award is presented annually to a state judge of a trial or appellate court who has had a career of distinguished judicial service. On September 29, the first Opperman Award was given to Shirley S. Abrahamson, chief justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court.


  

The Opperman Award is symbolized by a crystal representation of Mr. Opperman and, if consistent with the legal and ethical requirements applicable to the honoree, is accompanied by a \$5,000 honorarium. Any interested person or organization may submit a nomination. Entries should be in writing and should set forth the nominee's accomplishments and professional activities that have contributed to the administration of justice.

To qualify, a nominee must sit on and have at least ten years of judicial service on a trial and/or appellate court of general civil and/or criminal jurisdiction from one of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, or Puerto Rico. The Opperman Award will be given to a qualified judge whose career is characterized by:

- Decisions that, through their wisdom, humanity and commitment to the rule of law, make clear that bench, bar and community alike would willingly entrust that judge with the most complex cases of the most far-reaching import, and



## Q&amp;A

# Ready to Lead the L.A. Court

## Conversation With Assistant Presiding Judge William A. MacLaughlin



Assistant Presiding Judge William A. MacLaughlin Superior Court of Los Angeles County

*Some people play golf to relax and get away from the pressures of daily life. Judge William A. MacLaughlin, the Superior Court of Los Angeles County's assistant presiding judge, prefers horseback riding and competitive roping.*

*Judge MacLaughlin's lifelong interest in horses led him to team up with a former client and buy a ranch in Montana. According to Judge MacLaughlin, horses are in his blood.*

*He admits that he did not have the same kind of lifelong passion for the law, deciding to go to law school only in his senior year in college. But law, like horses, was in his blood—his brother and father were both attorneys. Luckily for the citizens of Los Angeles, another of his passions is public service and giving back to the community, which he credits as the stimulus that guided him to the bench.*

*Judge MacLaughlin's term on the Judicial Council ended this October as he prepared to assume the post of presiding judge in Los Angeles in January. Court News spoke with him about the challenges facing his court and the entire judicial branch.*

**In January you become the presiding judge of the largest trial court in the nation and the head of a complex organization. What are the biggest challenges you face as you take the role of presiding judge in 2005? What do you want to accomplish?**

Unfortunately for our court, as well as for all courts in the state, the dominant issue from an operational perspective is the budget. The ability to effectively provide services to the public with more limited means than in

**We are still only a few years removed from the unification of superior and municipal courts. What have been the effects of unification on your court?**

Unification has certainly increased uniformity in rules and procedures and how our courts operate. Greater consistency and predictability make it easier for the public and the bar to use the court system. But unification has sparked other issues we must confront.

In Los Angeles, we merged 24 municipal courts with the

**Another effect that unification brought about is the fact that some of our former municipal courthouses no longer have the same connection to the communities they most immediately serve.**

superior court to create one system. So just as we are trying to create certain uniformities in court administration on a statewide level, Los Angeles confronted this same issue on a local level. Trying to put 25 different court systems together is no small task.

With these 25 different courts, we had even more case management and technology systems. It has been a great challenge to accommodate all of these different systems or streamline them so we can all use the same technology. We continue to work toward that goal; there are still a few variations.

Another effect that unification brought about is the fact that some of our former municipal courthouses no longer have the same connection to the communities they most immediately serve. Municipal court judges in Los Angeles, like those in smaller counties, resided in

Anecdotally, the judges in our court are generally encountering a different attitude from jurors. Overall, the public has favorably received the one-day or one-trial system.

Those accustomed to being regularly excused from jury duty did not receive it as well. Because of the great demand for jurors in Los Angeles created by the one-day or one-trial system, the court must be strict in enforcing the statutes, rules, and policies pertaining to jury service.

While juror attitudes seem to be improving, unfortunately many people simply do not respond to the summons. Because

this is a continuing problem, our court holds sanction hearings around the county for those who do not report to jury service.

The goal of the hearings is not to order sanctions, but rather to educate people about the jury system, improve response rates, and get more individuals to serve. In fact, we give those who show up to the hearings every opportunity to serve before imposing sanctions. In most cases, they understand the obligation and accept it.

**Judicial branch leaders have stressed the need to increase and improve communication within the branch and with external stakeholders. Can you give an example of how court leaders and the Judicial Council/Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) are working together?**

Anytime you ask people what the biggest challenges are for their organization, invariably one of the responses is going to be "Communication." Because this continues to be true, it indicates that we have yet to perfect the art of communication and may never will. But we must continue to try to improve.

Improving communication has been a priority for the branch, including the Judicial Council, the Administrative Office of the Courts, and the courts. For example, the judicial branch put a great emphasis on communicating with the executive and legislative branches on finding suitable solutions to the budget situation.

Judicial branch leaders also put great effort into communicating—on a statewide and local basis—to our constituents, our staff, and to each other the challenges our courts faced because

of the budget difficulties. I recently served on the Judicial Branch Budget Advisory Committee [consisting of court leaders and AOC staff], which made recommendations to the Judicial Council, as did the Trial Court Presiding Judges and Court Executives Advisory Committees, on the priorities and principles that should guide us in the budget process.

Those council priorities are then communicated to the courts. In Los Angeles we make sure to share those priorities and other budget issues with the judges. We discuss the budget in every executive committee and

supervising judges' committee meeting. Committee members are then directed to update their constituents, as well.

**Your term on the Judicial Council came to an end in October. What are your parting thoughts on your experience on the council? What advice would you give other judges about becoming involved in leading the branch?**

I have realized that administering a statewide branch of government is an enormous task, and that we need to find the right balance between statewide governance of the judicial system and desire for local court autonomy. That balance can be difficult to obtain. The 58 superior courts want as big as voice as possible in how they operate, but at the same time we need to make sure that all courts are moving in the right direction.

Because we are so large, the superior court in Los Angeles is really a microcosm of the state judicial branch. We have a variety of courthouses, large and small. We deal with different populations and geographic concerns. The Los Angeles court, like the state judicial branch, must balance the need for greater uniformity while preserving local control.

My council experience has also taught me that even though Los Angeles is the biggest court system in the state, we are dealing with the same issues and concerns that other courts are facing. The important thing to realize is that we can learn from one another to improve our service to the public. ■

**I have realized that administering a statewide branch of government is an enormous task, and that we need to find the right balance between statewide governance of the judicial system and desire for local court autonomy.**

the past has been the most critical issue for the past several years and is most likely to continue to be into the immediate future. But despite the budgetary challenges, or possibly because of them, courts have found better ways to use their resources.

Another challenge all courts face is to stay relevant in an ever-changing society. Our constituents are constantly changing. We need to place an emphasis on improving our procedures and operations to better serve the users of the court. Obviously, budgetary concerns will affect our ability to do this, but we must continue to keep up with the world around us.

the area in which they worked and had strong ties to the community. With unification, judges appointed to the court are less likely to have local ties, are often serving significant distances from home, and are more likely to be in an assignment not of their choosing. The court will need to find ways to address these situations.

**Your court is placing a strong emphasis on juror service compliance and educating the community about the one-day or one-trial system. How has this effort affected jury service in your county?**



# Sentencing in the Aftermath of *Blakely* v. Washington

JUDGE J. RICHARD COUZENS  
SUPERIOR COURT OF PLACER  
COUNTY

JUDGE TRICIA ANN BIGELOW  
SUPERIOR COURT OF LOS  
ANGELES COUNTY

This last summer the United States Supreme Court handed down its landmark decision in *Blakely v. Washington* (2004) \_\_\_ U.S. \_\_\_ (124 S.Ct. 2531, 04 D.A.R. 7581). The high court extended the right to a jury trial articulated in *Apprendi v. New Jersey* (2000) 530 U.S. 466 to circumstances in which a defendant’s punishment is increased beyond the maximum authorized by a verdict or plea.

The decision calls into question the ability of California courts to impose aggravated prison terms under our current sentencing rules and procedures. The California Supreme Court has yet to determine whether and to what extent *Blakely* will apply to California sentencing proceedings. However, all but one published case so far find *Blakely* applicable to California when a court intends to impose an upper term in state prison. (*People v. George* (2004) 122 Cal.App.4th 418; *People v. Butler* (2004) 122 Cal.App.4th 910; *People v. Lemus* (2004) 122 Cal.App.4th 614; *People v. Jaffe* (2004) 122 Cal.App.4th 1559.) Those courts hold that any fact not found by the jury’s verdict or admitted by the defendant that is used to impose the aggravated term generally must be found by a jury through proof beyond a reasonable doubt.

In *People v. Wagener* (2004) \_\_\_ Cal.App.4th \_\_\_, however,

the Fourth Appellate District, Division One, parted company with the other appellate courts. The majority concluded that California’s sentencing scheme “does not offend the constitutional concerns addressed in *Apprendi* and its progeny, *Blakely*.” The court determined, in essence, that if a conviction results in a specific range of possible sentences, the facts used to select the particular term within the range are merely “sentencing factors” and need not be submitted to a jury. It is only when



a sentence is imposed over the designated range, as with an enhancement, that the right to a jury trial is implicated.

Most California appellate decisions since *Blakely* have found ways to avoid its application. *Blakely* has been held not to apply to a sentence imposed within the maximum punishment authorized by the verdict or plea. (*People v. Barnes* (2004) 122 Cal.App.4th 858; *Jaffe, supra*, 122 Cal.App.4th 1559.) In *Barnes*, for example, the defendant’s exposure was 11 years in prison. The trial court imposed a sentence of 6 years, utilizing the upper term on a drug conviction. The defendant had no right to a jury trial on the factors justifying the upper term since the sentence was within the maximum term authorized by the conviction.

An upper term based on factors “inherent in the verdict” do not require a jury. In *People v.*

*Vaughn* (2004) 122 Cal.App.4th 1363, the defendant was convicted of multiple murders and attempts to murder. The trial court imposed an upper term on one attempted murder because of the violence and multiplicity of defendant’s crimes inherent in the verdict. The decision was affirmed.

If the defendant waives the right to a jury and allows the court to decide all issues, *Blakely* does not apply. (*People v. Earley* (2004) 122 Cal.App.4th 542; *People v. Fernandez* (2004) \_\_\_ Cal.App.4th \_\_\_.) The decision also does not apply when the terms of the defendant’s plea allow the imposition of the upper term. (*People v. Jones* (2004) \_\_\_ Cal.App.4th \_\_\_.)

*Blakely* also has been held inapplicable to determining whether a crime is a violent felony under Penal Code section 2933.1 (restriction of custody credits for violent felonies) and whether Penal Code section 654 applies. (*People v. Garcia* (121 Cal.App.4th 271; *Vaughn, supra*, 122 Cal.App.4th 1363.)

Appellate courts have uniformly held that a defendant has no right to a jury trial regarding the finding of facts necessary to impose a consecutive sentence. (*People v. Ochoa* (2004) 121 Cal. App.4th 1551; *Vaughn, supra*, 122 Cal.App.4th 1363.) *Blakely* has been held specifically inapplicable to consecutive sentencing under the three-strikes law and cases in which the jury finds multiple victims. (*Jaffe, supra*, 122 Cal. App.4th 1559; *People v. Shaw* (2004) 122 Cal.App.4th 453.)

*Blakely* itself holds that its decision is not applicable to the determination of the fact of a prior conviction. California courts have reaffirmed the exclusion in *Butler* and in *Jaffe*. On the same reasoning, courts have extended the exclusion to other circumstances involving the defendant’s criminal record. *Blakely* has been held not to apply to an

upper term imposed because of a prior prison term or because the defendant was on probation when the current crime was committed. (*Jaffe, supra*, 122 Cal.App. 4th 1559; *George, supra*, 122 Cal.App.4th 418.)

Only one published decision has applied *Blakely* to sentencing factors used by the trial court. *Butler* determined that the defendant was entitled to a jury finding on whether: the crime had a great threat of bodily harm, the crime involved a large quantify of controlled substances, the defendant took advantage of a position of trust, and the defendant engaged in violent conduct. (Cf. *Vaughn, supra*, 122 Cal.App.4th 1363.)

The good news is that the California Supreme Court has taken prompt action to address *Blakely*’s application to California sentencing proceedings. The court granted review of *People v. Towne*, B166312, and *People v. Black*, S126182, specifically to address *Blakely*. The court also has granted review of several appellate decisions: *People v. Vonner* (2004) 121 Cal.App.4th 801 and *People v. Sykes* (2004) 120 Cal.App.4th 1331.

So what should we do now? Our best advice is to keep up with the new cases on this issue and do what we do best—make a reasoned judgment on the facts and the law as it exists at the time. In addition, if a court is inclined to impose an upper-term sentence and finds a number of factors authorizing the sentence, any one of which would be sufficient justification, the court should so state on the record. Such a finding may help preserve a sentence while the appellate courts sort out the extent of *Blakely*’s application. In the meantime, we anxiously await the Supreme Court’s guidance. ■



Judge J. Richard Couzens



Judge Tricia Ann Bigelow

Judge Couzens and Judge Bigelow co-author California Three Strikes Sentencing (<http://serranus.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/documents/3strikes.pdf>) and frequently teach felony sentencing at programs of the Administrative Office of the Courts’ Education Division/Center for Judicial Education and Research programs.

## Prop. 36 Report Praises Drug Court Model

BLAINE CORREN

The Proposition 36 “show rate,” or percentage of offenders sentenced under the proposition who enter drug abuse treatment, is approximately the same as the percentage of defendants referred to treatment via other avenues of the criminal justice system. However, the show rate is much higher in counties that sentence Prop. 36 defendants using a drug court approach.

These findings are noted in a second-year independent evaluation of California’s Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act, also known as Prop. 36. The report—released on September 23 by researchers at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) Neuropsychiatric Institute’s Integrated Substance Abuse Programs—offers a detailed profile of the flow of offenders through the Prop. 36 pipeline across all 58 California counties during

the program’s second year (the 12 months ending on June 30, 2003).

**PROP. 36 AND DRUG COURTS**

Proposition 36 was passed by the California voters in November 2000. It represented a major shift in criminal justice policy, mandating that eligible adults convicted of nonviolent drug-related offenses be sentenced to probation with drug treatment instead of either incarceration or probation without treatment. Offenders on probation or parole who commit nonviolent drug-related offenses or who violate drug-related conditions of their release may also receive treatment.

“The more we move Prop. 36 cases toward the drug court model, the better,” says Judge Stephen V. Manley, who presides over the drug court at the Superior Court of Santa Clara County and served on a statewide committee charged with

assisting with the implementation of Prop. 36. “It provides for greater accountability and closer supervision when defendants are in treatment. Supporters of treatment should be open to modifying the initiative to incorporate drug court principles.”

**DATA OF LIMITED VALUE**

Although UCLA researchers state that future reports will analyze crime trends, recidivism, and costs and benefits, this latest Prop. 36 report deals only with treatment data.

“The report does not contain criminal justice data and does not accurately portray what is going on with defendants,” says Judge Manley. “More data that included drug test results, probation violations, re-arrest rates, and the impact, if any, on the jail and prison populations would be more helpful

in evaluating this proposition, since the issue of future funding will be before the Legislature in the next fiscal year.”

Although he wishes the report went further, Judge Manley acknowledges the progress made under Prop. 36. “This is the largest collaborative model ever tried in criminal justice. Courts, judges, probation officers, and treatment providers have worked hard to make this happen. And it has given many individuals the opportunity to get treatment. However, at the same time it has brought into treatment many offenders with lengthy histories of drug use and crime. Limited funding and resources make it very difficult to obtain successful outcomes.”

● To view the complete *Evaluation of the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act 2003 Report*, visit [www.uclaisap.org/](http://www.uclaisap.org/).



# Social Security Number Privacy Legislation

JOSÉ F. DIMAS  
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT  
RELATIONS  
NATIONAL CENTER FOR  
STATE COURTS



José F. Dimas

It is becoming apparent that the current Congress will not act on social security number (SSN) privacy legislation before it adjourns. The proposed legislation (H.R. 2971) raises problems for state courts because it mandates that social security numbers be redacted (excised) from all court records two years from the date of enactment.

The impetus driving SSN legislation is the congressional concern for privacy. A surge of identity theft cases has added fuel to the growing fear of misuse of personal information, particularly social security numbers. According to a report released by the Federal Trade Commission in September 2003, almost 10 million people had been victimized by identity theft in the previous year, resulting in losses of over \$47 billion.

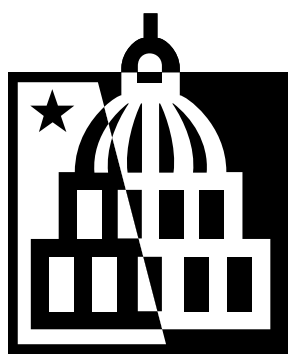
Even though House Bill 2971 was approved on July 21 by the House Ways and Means Committee, a number of factors such as the absence of consensus among legislators, opposition from financial institutions, and a lack of time remaining in the session will likely doom this or any SSN privacy bill this year. But, like the proverbial phoenix, this legislation will most certainly reappear next year.

The sponsors of this legislation will probably make adjustments to counter some of their critics, as they have done in the past. For example, this session's initial legislation (H.R. 2971) contained exemptions for national security and made any redaction of SSNs prospective rather than retroactive. The Senate version requires redaction only if an SSN appears in a consistent manner throughout a public document. All of these exemptions were intended to broaden the support for the bill, and we can expect more tweaking before the next Congress convenes.

## CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY

The Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ) and the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA) have expressed concern about the costs of an SSN redaction requirement and have urged Congress to work with the state courts to craft a workable solution (CCJ Resolution 02 AM 29).

COSCA President Mike Buenger testified on June 15, 2004, before a House subcommittee that is considering comprehensive federal legislation to prevent identity theft by protecting social security numbers. He outlined the ways in which state courts use SSNs:



## Watch on Washington

- **Identification of parties** An SSN is a unique identifier by which court personnel can determine whether the current "John Smith" is the same person as a previous "John Smith" who appeared in an earlier case.

- **Collection of fees, fines, and restitution by courts** SSNs are the universal personal identifier for credit references, tax collection, and commercial transactions.

- **Creation of jury pools and payment of jurors** SSNs are a necessary part of the process by which multiple lists (for instance, registered voters and registered drivers) are merged by computer programs to eliminate duplicate records for individual citizens. These records are used in the creation of master source lists from which citizens are selected at random for jury duty.

- **Facilitating the collection of judgments by creditors and government agencies** Judgment creditors need SSNs to locate judgment debtors' assets and levy on them. Courts often require that judgment debtors make this information available, without requiring separate discovery proceedings that lengthen the collection process and increase its costs.

- **Notification to the Social Security Administration of the names of incarcerated and absconded persons** The Social Security Administration cuts off all payments to persons incarcerated in federal, state, and local prisons or jails and to persons who are currently fugitives from justice. (See 42 U.S.C. § 402(x)(3), requiring federal and state agencies to provide the names and social security numbers of confined persons to the Social Security Administration.)

- **Transmitting information to other agencies** Some states share information with their motor vehicles departments for enforcement of driver's license revocation procedures.

While citing the cost of redacting social security numbers in court documents, Buenger indicated in his testimony to the House subcommittee the willingness of the state courts to develop a workable solution to the problem. "Mr. Chairman, the most important

message I can deliver to you today is that the conference stands ready to work with you in crafting solutions to address the problem of identity theft," stated Buenger.

## PRIVACY AND PUBLIC ACCESS PROJECT

At the request of Representative Clay Shaw, R-Fla., chair of the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security, Buenger also delivered a briefing on the recent Public Access to Court Records: CCJ/COSCA Guidelines for Policy Development by State Courts project. The Public Access project was a joint effort of CCJ and COSCA to give state court systems and local trial courts assistance in establishing policies and procedures that balance the concerns of personal privacy, public access, and public safety.

The Guidelines Committee examined the use of SSNs in current court practices. They investigated the inclusion of SSNs—as well as information such as addresses, phone numbers, photographs, medical records, family law proceedings, and financial account numbers—in bulk distributions of court records. In his testimony Buenger noted the varied and sometimes conflicting federal laws and requirements governing SSN display and distribution by state and local entities. "Federal law requires courts to enter SSNs on court orders granting divorces or child support or determining paternity," stated Buenger.

## GAO REPORTS/SURVEYS

Congressional leaders have directed the General Accounting Office (GAO) to examine the use of SSNs by state courts. In late February 2004, the GAO distributed a Web-based survey to COSCA and subsequently mailed surveys to clerks of courts in 200 counties around the country. The survey identified six types of court records for which GAO is trying to gather information: (1) records of criminal proceedings, (2) litigation and civil case files, (3) jury lists, (4) estate and inheritance records, (5) traffic records, and (6) records of judgments.

Staff from the National Center for State Courts' Government Relations Office met with GAO to discuss the survey and the means of ensuring a good court response. In addition, GAO staff met with state court leaders in the 2004 Assembly of Court Associations meeting in May. A GAO report reflecting the current activity and data is due to be released sometime this fall.

## SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE CREATED

At the direction of CCJ President Shirley Abrahamson, a special subcommittee of the CCJ/COSCA Court Management Committee has been established to prepare a legislative response to Congress on SSN privacy protection innovations in the state courts. This subcommittee will meet several times leading up to the CCJ/COSCA midyear meetings. Currently, the subcommittee is reviewing innovations in state court systems where SSNs are protected while traditional court access is maintained. The larger Court Management Committee intends to present a proposal to congressional leaders before the next Congress convenes. ■



Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA) President Mike Buenger testified on June 15, 2004, before a House subcommittee considering comprehensive federal legislation to prevent identity theft by protecting social security numbers. He outlined the ways in which state courts use SSNs and the impacts the legislation would have on their operations. *Photo: Courtesy of the National Center for State Courts*







## Education & Development

### AOC-TV Expands Reach, Programming

The judicial branch's satellite network, AOC-TV, is expanding by adding programming and venues for viewing its broadcasts.

On December 15, for the first time on AOC-TV, the Ad-

ministrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Education Division/Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER) will present a Qualifying Judicial Ethics Training (QE2) course. This course, originally offered only in face-to-face workshops, covers disclosure, disqualification, and travel reimbursement procedures. Participation in the two-hour

facilitated broadcast fulfills the elective requirement for second-cycle judicial ethics training.

CJER is also expanding the list of potential venues for viewing AOC-TV broadcasts. CJER is now audiocasting and videocasting many of its programs via the Internet. In addition, most

AOC-TV broadcasts are archived online after the original broadcast.

● For more information on AOC-TV and other educational opportunities, visit CJER's Web site at [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/cjer](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/cjer) or contact the AOC Education Division/CJER, 415-865-7745. ■



The California court system's public Web site at [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/) and Serranus, the courts' password-protected Web site, at <http://serranus.courtinfo.ca.gov/> continually add information and features to keep the public, judges, and court staff up to date on judicial programs and resources. Following are recent additions.

#### New Site for Trial Court Planning

A new section of Serranus allows trial courts to submit updated operational plans online for the three fiscal years 2004–2005 through 2006–2007. Users will be able to view and print their plan submissions as well as plans submitted by other California courts. <http://serranus.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/community/>

#### Revisions to Civil Jury Instructions

The Judicial Council at its October 15 business meeting approved a second set of revisions to the civil jury instructions that were published in September 2003 and last updated in April 2004. [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/documents/civinstfinal.pdf](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/documents/civinstfinal.pdf)

#### New Public Site for Facilities Information

A new section of the California Courts Web site provides information on the Administrative Office of the Courts Office of Court Construction and Management (OCCM) and its implementation of the Trial Court Facilities Act of 2002, landmark legislation that shifted governance of California's courthouses from counties to the state. [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/)

#### Deskbook on Coordination of Family And Juvenile Matters

The *Unified Courts for Families Deskbook: A Guide for California Courts on Unifying and Coordinating Family and Juvenile Law Matters* discusses due process and confidentiality issues and offers detailed suggestions for approaches to coordination in the major case types most frequently included in a unified court strategy. [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/cfcc/pdffiles/UCFdeskbook.pdf](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/cfcc/pdffiles/UCFdeskbook.pdf)

#### Judicial Guide to Domestic Violence Cases

A new publication for judges offers guidance on handling domestic violence cases and focuses on issues related to protective orders, firearms and full faith and credit, immigration, and stalking. [http://serranus.courtinfo.ca.gov/education/domestic\\_violence/index.htm](http://serranus.courtinfo.ca.gov/education/domestic_violence/index.htm)

#### Superior Court Brochure Updated

The *Visitors' Guide to the California Superior Courts* has been updated and posted to the California Courts Web site. The guide is one in a series of three pamphlets that provide concise and easy-to-read summaries of the practices and procedures of California's superior courts, appellate courts, and Supreme Court. [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/documents/supervis.pdf](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/documents/supervis.pdf); [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/documents/ctappbro.pdf](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/documents/ctappbro.pdf); [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/documents/visguide.pdf](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/documents/visguide.pdf)

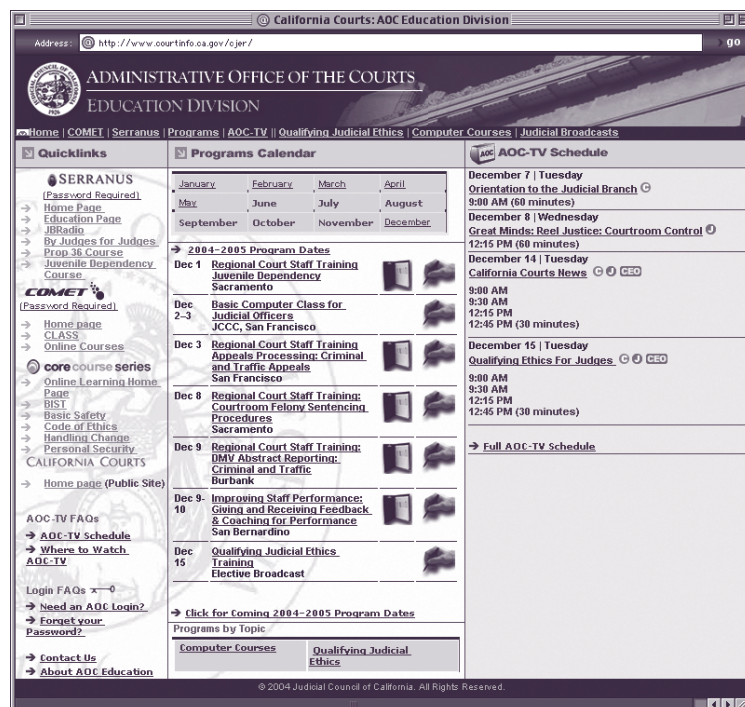
#### Courts Switch to courts.ca.gov Domain Name

The AOC registered the Internet domain name [courts.ca.gov](http://courts.ca.gov) for use by the California trial courts. Each court has the option of appending its name as a subdomain onto the [courts.ca.gov](http://courts.ca.gov) domain name for e-mail and Web and directory services. The .gov domain helps identify official government sources. <http://serranus.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/tech/domain.htm>

#### AOC Survey Calendar

Updated quarterly, the Administrative Office of the Courts' survey calendar provides courts with advance notice of data collection and helps researchers identify and use alternative sources of data and avoid duplicative requests. [http://serranus.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/research\\_stats.htm](http://serranus.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/research_stats.htm)

● Not a Serranus user? For access, e-mail [serranus@jud.ca.gov](mailto:serranus@jud.ca.gov).



## State's Court Interpreters Come Together



More than 400 interpreters attended the first State-wide Interpreters Conference, presented by the Administrative Office of the Courts on September 18 at the Sheraton Universal Hotel in Los Angeles.

The conference theme, "One Voice: A Community of Interpreters," was meant to encourage a sense of community and shared vision among the state's interpreters. The conference was an opportunity for the interpreters to come together and discuss issues that are challenging the profession.

Participants chose from among 20 workshops, facilitated by experts, on topics such as relay interpreting, team interpreting, and American Sign Language interpreting. A panel discussion by judicial officers included a presentation followed by questions and answers about confidential and privileged communication.

Photo: Sherry Goodman

## Getting in Touch

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) provides easy access to its staff through the AOC Phone List and AOC Subject Matter Referral List. The phone list contains contact numbers for all AOC employees, listed both alphabetically and by division and unit. The referral list provides contacts for information on specific topics, such as accounting, juvenile courts, and new judge education.

The AOC Phone List and AOC Subject Matter Referral List can be viewed at [http://serranus.courtinfo.ca.gov/documents/smr\\_list.pdf](http://serranus.courtinfo.ca.gov/documents/smr_list.pdf).



## Court Briefs

### Judge Wray F. Ladine 1950–2004

Judge Wray F. Ladine, Assistant Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of Stanislaus County, collapsed on October 25 in the Modesto courthouse and later



died. The cause of death was coronary artery disease. He was 53.

Judge Ladine was scheduled to assume the post of presiding judge next year and had primary responsibility for developing the court's new direct calendaring process, to debut in January. He also was a member of the Judicial Council's Judicial Service Advisory Committee.

Prior to his appointment to the bench in February 2000, Judge Ladine worked at the law firm of Damrell, Nelson, Schrimp, Pallios & Ladine; the Stanislaus County counsel's office; and the district attorney's office in Modesto.

United States District Court Judge Frank Damrell gave the eulogy at Judge Ladine's funeral service on October 29 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Modesto. The service was attended by 850 people, including judges, court staff members, local attorneys, family members, and friends. Judge Ladine is survived by his mother, Jay Ladine; his wife, Mimi; and their son, Bret.

### Students See Appellate Justice Firsthand

The Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, held a special oral argument session to educate students about their legal and constitutional rights and the purpose and process of the appellate court system. The special session, cosponsored by the Constitutional Rights Foundation (CRF), was held on October 25 in the Ronald Reagan Building in Los Angeles.

Sixty high school seniors attended oral argument in *People v. Lopez* (B173692), an appeal of a robbery conviction. The participating schools prepared their students to observe the argument through lesson plans developed by CRF on the appellate process and the facts and issues of the appeal. In addition, the court provided the students with a synopsis of the case and copies of the parties' briefing. The students will discuss the court's decision, when it is issued, in a follow-up classroom session.

● For more information, contact Joseph Lane, Clerk/Administrator, Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, 213-830-7112. ■

### New Juvenile Dependency Court in San Bernardino



In January 1997, Chief Justice Ronald M. George visited facilities of the superior court in San Bernardino County, remarking that the trailers that housed its juvenile dependency services were among the worst settings for court business in the state.

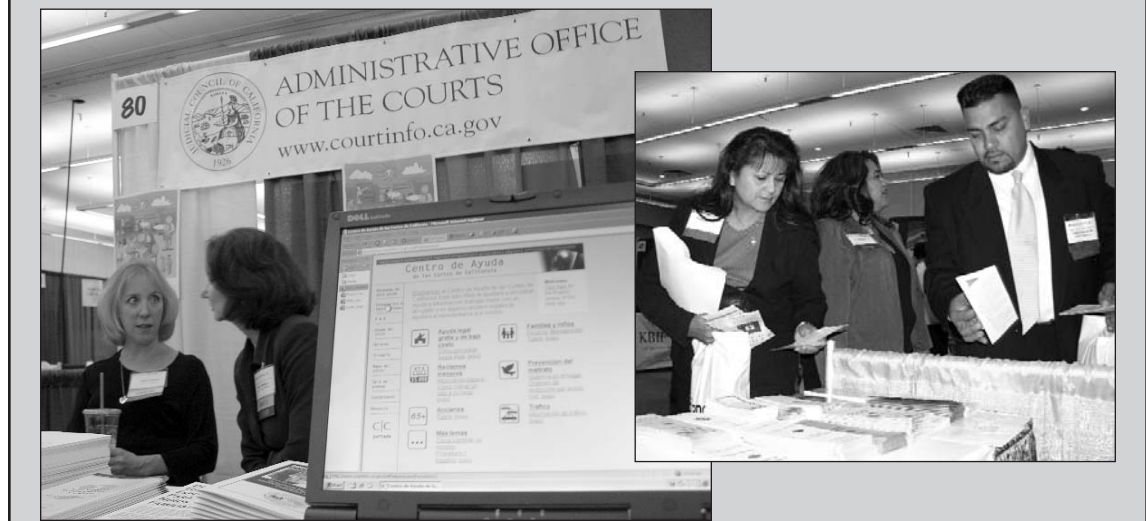
What a difference a few years can make. Chief Justice George returned to San Bernardino County on October 7 to join local officials at the dedication ceremony of the county's new juvenile dependency court and Department of Children's Services building in the city of San Bernardino. The dedication ceremony marked the culmination of nearly five years of planning for this state-of-the-art facility, which houses all of the services needed to support children involved in dependency proceedings and their families. More than 3,000 dependency cases are filed annually in San Bernardino County—the third highest number in the state.

The new facility is a collaborative venture of the Superior Court of San Bernardino County and the Department of Children's Services. The building replaced the trailers in which the dependency court and the Department of Children's Services had been housed for more than 11 years. Funding for the facility came from \$3.8 million in Health and Human Services realignment funds and \$1.3 million of local funds; no debt financing was required.

● For more information, contact Tressa S. Kentner, Executive Officer, Superior Court of San Bernardino County, 909-387-0140.

Photo: Courtesy of the Superior Court of San Bernardino County

### Ethnic Media Hear About Court Programs



The Superior Court of Fresno County and the Administrative Office of the Courts cohosted an information table at the NCM Expo on September 24 at the Fresno Convention Center. The annual exhibition is the largest gathering of ethnic news media representatives in the state. This year's Expo drew more than 1,200 attendees.

The event served as an opportunity to highlight some of the judicial branch's key programs aimed at the state's diverse ethnic populations, including Fresno's award-winning Spanish-language legal resources center and Centro de Ayuda, the Spanish-language self-help Web site of the California courts.

Bank of America representatives (above, right) visited the booth staffed by Superior Court of Fresno County employees Sherry Spears (far left), Media Coordinator, and Patty Wallace, Grants and Training and Education Manager.

### Court Gives a Hand to Homeless Veterans



The Superior Court of Sacramento County participated in the 13th annual Stand Down Event on October 1–2 at Camp Pollock in Sacramento. The event assists homeless veterans in adjudicating infractions and minor misdemeanor cases.

The court assisted more than 260 veterans and adjudicated over 350 cases in the two days of the event. In keeping with the goal of Stand Down, the court ordered eligible veterans to complete community service in lieu of fines.

More than 50 court staff members volunteered to work at the event, interviewing veterans and providing them with information on their outstanding cases, recording the hearings, and ensuring that the cases were properly adjudicated. Cases were heard and adjudicated by Judge Renard F. Shepard (second from left). Photo: Courtesy of the Superior Court of Sacramento County

## Milestones

**Chief Justice Ronald M. George** honored **Supreme Court Justice Joyce L. Kennard** and Administrative Office of the Courts attorney **Peter Belton** for their roles in updating and simplifying the appellate rules of the California Rules of Court. The six-year project involved the revision and refinement of more than 135 court rules that govern appellate court practice and procedure in California.

Originally written more than 60 years ago, the rules were revised by the Appellate Rules Project Task Force under the direction of the Judicial Council's Appellate Advisory Committee, chaired by Justice Kennard. Peter Belton, former senior attorney for the late Supreme Court Justice Stanley Mosk and now with the AOC Office of the General Counsel, headed the task force.

The California Judges Association named **Superior Court of Alameda County Judge Peggy Fulton Hora** the 2004 recipient of the Bernard S. Jefferson Judicial Education Award at the organization's 75th annual meeting on October 8 in Monterey. The award is presented to the California judge who has made the most exceptional contribution to the field of judicial education during the previous year.

Currently presiding over the drug treatment court at the Hayward Hall of Justice, Judge Hora has taught at the Bernard E. Witkin Judicial College of California for 17 years and was dean of the college from 1997 to 1999. She has served as faculty for the National Judicial College for 12 years and has taught for such diverse entities as the American Psychological Association, the American Society of Addiction Medicine, the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, the Chicago Police Forum, and the University of California.

The American Judges Association (AJA) recognized three California leaders at its annual conference in October.

**Superior Court of Orange County Presiding Judge Frederick Paul Horn** received the AJA's 2004 Judge Bob Jones Memorial Award for significant contributions to judicial education. Judge Horn was recognized for his work with new judge education and the Continuing Judicial Studies Education Committee and for his continuing leadership in other areas of judicial education.

The AJA named state **Senators Joseph Dunn and Dick Ackerman** joint recipients of the 2004 Glenn R. Winters Award, which recognizes laypersons' contributions to improving the image of the judiciary. The senators were honored for supporting the judiciary as a separate and equal branch of government and for stressing among their colleagues the importance of ensuring access to the courts for all Californians.

The Legal Aid Association of California presented **Suzanne Clark Morlock**, a family law facilitator and self-help center director for the Superior Courts of Butte, Glenn, and Tehama Counties, with one of its 2004 Family Law Awards. Ms. Morlock was honored for her work in creating and leading the Self-Help Assistance Regional Program (SHARP), a model program for serving self-represented litigants in rural counties.

California Women Lawyers presented **Bonnie Rose Hough**, an attorney in the Administrative Office of the Courts' Center for Families, Children & the Courts, with the Fay Stender Award at the group's annual dinner in October. The award is given to an attorney who is "committed to the representation of women, disadvantaged groups and unpopular causes, and whose courage, zest for life, and demonstrated ability to effect change as a single individual make her a role model for women attorneys."

Among her many initiatives to increase access to the courts, Ms. Hough has helped develop

the Family Law Facilitator Program; family law information centers in the Los Angeles, Fresno, and Sutter County courts; and five pilot self-help centers around the state. She is the incoming chair of the State Bar's Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services.

After more than 25 years of service with the California Supreme Court, **Assistant Clerk/**

**Administrator John Rossi** retired on October 1.

During his service with the state's high court, Mr. Rossi worked with three Chief Justices, 24 associate justices, and four clerks. On two occasions, Mr. Rossi served as acting clerk of the Supreme Court. Mr. Rossi began his judicial branch service in 1974 as a deputy clerk with the Superior Court of Marin County. ■

## Judicial Appointments/Departures

The Governor announced the following judicial appointment in September 2004.

### APPELLATE COURTS

**Norman L. Epstein**, Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, Division Four, elevated to presiding justice, succeeding Charles S. Vogel, retired.

The following judges departed the bench in September and October 2004.

### SUPERIOR COURTS

**John D. Harris**, Superior Court of Los Angeles County, retired.

**Margaret J. Kemp**, Superior Court of San Mateo County, retired.

**Wray F. Ladine**, Superior Court of Stanislaus County, deceased.

**John M. Phillips**, Superior Court of Monterey County, retired.

**Phrasel L. Shelton**, Superior Court of San Mateo County, retired.

**Thomas N. Thrasher, Sr.**, Superior Court of Orange County, retired.

**James L. Wright**, Superior Court of Los Angeles County, retired.

### EXECUTIVE OFFICER APPOINTMENT

**Hugh Swift**, Superior Court of Amador County, succeeding Rachele Agatha. ■

## AOC-TV Guide

DEC 7, Orientation to the Judicial Branch, 9:00 a.m. (60 minutes)

DEC 8, Great Minds: Reel Justice—Courtroom Control, 12:15 p.m. (60 minutes)

DEC 14, California Courts News (CCN), 9:00, 9:30 a.m.; 12:15, 12:45 p.m. (30 minutes)

DEC 15, Qualifying Ethics Broadcast, 11:00 a.m. (180 minutes)

JAN 4, Orientation to the Judicial Branch, 9:00 a.m. (60 minutes)

JAN 12, PJ/CEO Roundtable Broadcast (topic to be announced), 12:15 p.m. (45 minutes)

JAN 13, California Domestic Partner Rights and Responsibilities Act (training for child custody mediators and evaluators and juvenile dependency mediators), 3:00 p.m. (60 minutes)

JAN 18, Improving Staff Performance Series, Part II: Addressing Performance Gaps, 9:00 a.m.; 3:00 p.m. (90 minutes)

JAN 25, Leadership: MLK and Others, 9:00 a.m.; 12:15 p.m. (60 minutes)

FEB 1, Orientation to the Judicial Branch, 9:00 a.m. (60 minutes)

FEB 8, California Courts News (CCN), 9:00, 9:30 a.m.; 12:15, 12:45 p.m. (30 minutes)

FEB 15, Improving Staff Performance Series, Part II: Addressing Performance Gaps, 9:00 a.m.; 3:00 p.m. (90 minutes)

(Broadcast times are subject to change.)

● For more information on AOC-TV broadcasts, visit [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/cjer/](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/cjer/) or contact Jay Harrell, 415-865-7753; e-mail: [jay.harrell@jud.ca.gov](mailto:jay.harrell@jud.ca.gov). Viewing locations for each court are listed at [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/cjer/aocv/locations.htm](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/cjer/aocv/locations.htm).



## Clarification—More on I-CAN!

The Milestones section of the July–August *Court News* described the Superior Court of Orange County's I-CAN! (Interactive Community Assistance Network) project as a series of high-speed touchscreen kiosks that allow users access to court forms.

Available in English and Spanish via both kiosks and the Internet, I-CAN! is a legal services system that enables self-represented litigants to prepare official legal forms for filings involving paternity, domestic violence restraining orders, marriage dissolution, small claims, fee waivers, license denial review, wage assignment review, child support, income

and expense, and eviction defense. I-CAN! allows users to file domestic violence documents with the court remotely, such as from computers at domestic violence shelters.

In addition to generating legal pleadings, I-CAN! offers videos that give users information such as how to locate court facilities, find parking, file forms, serve papers, prepare for court appearances, and present cases. Immediate technical assistance from the Legal Aid Society of Orange County is available via Internet phone technology integrated into the system.







## Committees

Continued from page 17

Ms. Shannan L. Wilber  
*Legal Services for Children,*  
*San Francisco*

Ms. Jane Winer  
*Court of Appeal, Second*  
*Appellate District*

Ms. Kate Yavenditti  
*San Diego Volunteer Lawyer*  
*Program*

Hon. Patricia Bresee (Ret.)  
(advisory member)  
*Superior Court of California,*  
*County of San Mateo*

Ms. Caroline Huffman (advisory  
member)

### Governing Committee of the Center for Judicial Education and Research

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*County of San Joaquin*

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Wasserman, Vice-Chair  
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*County of Los Angeles*

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*County of Orange*

Hon. Marjorie Laird Carter  
*Superior Court of California,*  
*County of Orange*

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*Superior Court of California,*  
*County of Santa Cruz*

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*Superior Court of California,*  
*County of Los Angeles*

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*County of Los Angeles*

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*County of Riverside*

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*Appellate District*

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(appointed indefinitely)

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*Appellate District*

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*Appellate District*

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*Appellate District*

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*First District Appellate Project*

Ms. Elaine A. Alexander  
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*Appellate Defenders, Inc.*

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(appointed indefinitely)

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*The Weingart Center, Los*  
*Angeles*

Ms. Ruthe C. Ashley  
*McGeorge School of Law*

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*Attorney at Law, Grass Valley*

Ms. Barbara Hart Bergen  
*Mazon: A Jewish Response to*  
*Hunger*

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*County of Placer*

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*Justice*

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*Superior Court of California,*  
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*Attorney at Law, Los Angeles*

Mr. Forest E. Wright  
*Riverside County Public*  
*Defender’s Office*

Ms. Debbie Young  
*Bank of America Legal*  
*Department, Los Angeles*

Hon. Terry B. Friedman  
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*County of Los Angeles*

Hon. Maria P. Rivera (advisory  
member)  
*Court of Appeal, First Appellate*  
*District*

Hon. Victor E. Sanchez  
(advisory member)  
*Superior Court of California,*  
*County of Los Angeles*

### Reporting of the Record Task Force

(expired August 31, 2004)

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*Appellate District*

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*County of Colusa*

Ms. Maura Baldocchi  
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Mr. Gary M. Cramer  
*Superior Court of California,*  
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*County of San Diego*

Ms. Deena C. Fawcett  
*Court of Appeal, Third*  
*Appellate District*

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*Palisades*

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*County of Riverside*

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*Superior Court of California,*  
*County of Sutter*

Mr. Gary Evan McCurdy  
*Central California Appellate*  
*Program*

Ms. Jeanne Millsaps  
*Superior Court of California,*  
*County of San Joaquin*

Ms. Kary Parker  
*Superior Court of California,*  
*County of Orange*

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*County of San Francisco*

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*Superior Court of California,*  
*County of Shasta*

Mr. Paul J. Runyon  
*Superior Court of California,*  
*County of Los Angeles*

Mr. Alan Slater  
*Superior Court of California,</*



New Appointments to Council Committees

Chief Justice Ronald M. George appointed 63 new members to fill vacancies on 15 of the Judicial Council’s specialized advisory committees. The new appointees include justices, judges, commissioners, court administrators, and attorneys.

The members of the Judicial Council’s advisory committees volunteer their time and expertise to study issues of judicial administration. Vacancies are filled annually through a nomination and selection process designed to attract qualified applicants from throughout the state’s legal system. Diversity of experience, diversity of backgrounds, and diversity of geographical locations are among the guiding criteria for selection of members.

The new appointments took effect November 1, 2004. Most are for three-year terms. Following are the newly appointed committee members and the new and reappointed committee chairs and vice-chairs.

Access and Fairness Advisory Committee

- Justice James R. Lambden, Court of Appeal, First Appellate District, Division Two, reappointed chair
- Ms. Diane Gray, Superior Court of Riverside County
- Judge Judy Holzer Hersher, Superior Court of Sacramento County
- Judge Winifred Younge Smith, Superior Court of Alameda County

Advisory Committee on Civil Jury Instructions

- Justice James D. Ward, Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division Two, reappointed chair
- Mr. Terry Bridges, Attorney, Bridges and Leahy
- Justice J. Gary Hastings, Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, Division Four
- Judge Jamie A. Jacobs-May, Superior Court of Santa Clara County
- Mr. Todd M. Schneider, Attorney, Schneider & Wallace

Appellate Advisory Committee

- Justice Joyce L. Kennard, Supreme Court of California, reappointed chair
- Justice Cynthia G. Aaron, Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division One
- Ms. Elaine Alexander, Attorney, Appellate Defenders, Inc.
- Mr. Paul Fogel, Attorney, Reed Smith LLP/Crosby, Heafy, Roach & May
- Mr. Michael Hersek, California State Public Defender’s Office
- Justice Stuart R. Pollak, Court of Appeal, First Appellate District, Division Three

Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee

- Judge Elihu M. Berle, Superior Court of Los Angeles County, reappointed chair
- Mr. Thomas J. Brandi, Attorney, The Brandi Law Firm
- Mr. Larry Gobelman, Superior Court of Siskiyou County

- Presiding Judge Susan C. Harlan, Superior Court of Amador County
- Judge Roger A. Luebs, Superior Court of Riverside County
- Justice Dennis M. Perluss, Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, Division Seven
- Judge Peter J. Polos, Superior Court of Orange County
- Justice Ignazio J. Ruvolo, Court of Appeal, First Appellate District, Division Two
- Mr. William T. Tanner, Attorney, Legal Aid Society of Orange County

Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee

- Judge Jean Pfeiffer Leonard, Chair, Superior Court of Riverside County
- Mr. Thomas L. Alexander, San Diego County Probation Department
- Judge John E. Dobroth, Superior Court of Ventura County
- Ms. Sherry Dorfman, Superior Court of Contra Costa County
- Mr. John P. Gurney, Chief of Police, City of Sonoma
- Ms. Tilisha Martin, San Diego Downtown Community Court
- Mr. Joseph Ossmann, California Department of Corrections
- Mr. Michael D. Planet, Superior Court of Ventura County
- Ms. Elizabeth Stanley-Salazar, Phoenix Houses of California
- Judge Kathleen M. White, Superior Court of Yolo County

Court Executives Advisory Committee

- Ms. Fran Jurcso, Superior Court of Tuolumne County

Court Interpreters Advisory Panel

- Justice Eileen C. Moore, Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division Three, reappointed chair
- Judge Susan M. Breall, Superior Court of San Francisco County
- Ms. Rosa Junqueiro, Superior Court of San Joaquin County

Court Technology Advisory Committee

- Justice Ming W. Chin, Supreme Court of California, reappointed chair
- Mr. Alan Crouse, Superior Court of San Bernardino County
- Ms. Lisa M. Galdos, Superior Court of Monterey County
- Mr. Kevin Lane, Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District
- Assistant Presiding Judge Janis L. Sammartino, Superior Court of San Diego County
- Ms. Tania Ugrin-Capobianco, Superior Court of Mendocino County

Criminal Law Advisory Committee

- Justice Steven Z. Perren, Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, Division Six, reappointed chair
- Ms. Kim Pedersen, Superior Court of Sacramento County

Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee

- Judge Mary Ann Grilli, Superior Court of Santa Clara County, reappointed co-chair

- Judge Susan D. Huguenor, Superior Court of San Diego County, reappointed co-chair
- Ms. Antonia W. Agerbek, California Department of Child Support Services
- Judge Brian John Back, Superior Court of Ventura County
- Justice Patricia Bamattre-Manoukian, Court of Appeal, Sixth Appellate District
- Bryan Borys, Ph.D., CASA, Superior Court of Los Angeles County
- Commissioner David L. Haet, Superior Court of Solano County
- Ms. Frances Harrison, Superior Court of San Diego County
- Mr. Vahan Hovsepian, M.F.T., Superior Court of Butte County
- Mr. Rick Lewkowitz, Office of the District Attorney, County of Sacramento
- Judge Arnold D. Rosenfield (advisory member), Superior Court of Sonoma County

Governing Committee of the Center for Judicial Education and Research

- Judge George J. Abdallah, Jr., Superior Court of San Joaquin County, reappointed chair
- Judge Fumiko Hachiya Wasserman, Superior Court of Los Angeles County, reappointed vice-chair
- Ms. Susan Null, Superior Court of Shasta County

Judicial Service Advisory Committee

- Judge William Foster Highberger, Chair, Superior Court of Los Angeles County
- Justice Joan K. Irion, Vice-Chair, Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division One
- Assistant Presiding Judge S. William Abel, Superior Court of Colusa County

- Judge John P. Farrell, Superior Court of Los Angeles County
- Hon. Richard Montes (Ret.), Superior Court of Los Angeles County
- Administrative Presiding Justice Conrad Lee Rushing, Court of Appeal, Sixth Appellate District

Probate and Mental Health Advisory Committee

- Commissioner Don Edward Green, Chair, Superior Court of Contra Costa County
- Commissioner M. P. Paulette Durand Barkley, Superior Court of Riverside County
- Mr. Russell H. Marshall, Russell Fiduciary Services
- Assistant Presiding Judge Wayne R. Parrish, Superior Court of Mariposa County
- Mr. Irving Reifman, Attorney, Altman & Reifman
- Judge F. Clark Sueyres, Jr., Superior Court of San Joaquin County

Traffic Advisory Committee

- Presiding Judge John H. Tiernan, Superior Court of Colusa County, reappointed chair

Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee

- Presiding Judge Frederick Paul Horn, Superior Court of Orange County, reappointed chair

● For a complete listing of all advisory committees and their members, visit the California Courts Web site at [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courtadmin/jc/advisorycommittees.htm](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courtadmin/jc/advisorycommittees.htm) or request a copy from Secretariat at the Administrative Office of the Courts, [jcservices@jud.ca.gov](mailto:jcservices@jud.ca.gov).

New Judicial Council Task Force, Panel

Court Facilities Transitional Task Force

- Presiding Judge Brad R. Hill, Chair, Superior Court of Fresno County
- Judge James Michael Welch, Vice-Chair, Superior Court of San Bernardino County
- Mr. Stephan Castellanos, FAIA, Licensed Architect
- Judge Mark Ashton Cope, Superior Court of Riverside County
- Mr. Dean Dennis, Attorney, Hill, Farrer & Burrill
- Mr. Dennis Dunne, Principal, Dunne & Associates
- Ms. Kay Frauenholtz, Clerk/Administrator, Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District
- Judge Alice C. Hill, Superior Court of Los Angeles County
- Presiding Judge Roger T. Kosel, Superior Court of Siskiyou County
- Mr. Stephen V. Love, Executive Officer, Superior Court of San Diego County
- Justice Kathleen E. O’Leary, Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division Three
- Mr. Gordon Park-Li, Executive Officer, Superior Court of San Francisco County

- Judge Philip H. Pennypacker, Superior Court of Santa Clara County
- Mr. James B. Perry, Executive Officer, Superior Court of Yolo County
- Mr. Ken Torre, Executive Officer, Superior Court of Contra Costa County
- Mr. Thomas J. Warwick, Jr., Attorney, Grimes & Warwick
- Judge Diane Elan Wick, Superior Court of San Francisco County

Interim Court Facilities Panel

- Judge Richard Strauss, Chair, Superior Court of County of San Diego County
- Judge Michael T. Garcia, Vice-Chair, Superior Court of Sacramento County
- Ms. Tamara Lynn Beard, Executive Officer, Superior Court of Fresno County
- Presiding Justice Laurence Donald Kay, Court of Appeal, First Appellate District, Division Four
- Mr. David J. Pasternak, Pasternak, Pasternak & Patton
- Mr. Alan Slater, Chief Executive Officer, Superior Court of Orange County

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# Calendar

### CONFERENCES

DEC 1–4	Conference of State Court Administrators Midyear Meeting, New Orleans
DEC 8–10	Beyond the Bench XV, San Jose
DEC 13–15	National Center for State Courts E-Courts Conference, Las Vegas
JAN 23–26	Conference of Chief Justices Midyear Meeting, New York City
FEB 9–15	American Bar Association Midyear Conference, Salt Lake City
FEB 13–15	National Association for Court Management Midyear Conference, Biloxi, Mississippi

### JUDICIAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

DEC 10                      FEB 18

- Contact: Secretariat, 415-865-7640; e-mail: jcservices@jud.ca.gov. All Judicial Council business meetings will be held at the Administrative Office of the Courts in San Francisco unless otherwise noted. The council generally meets the day before business meetings for educational and executive sessions. When these sessions are open to the public, the council will note it on the meeting agenda, which is posted seven days before business meetings at [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courtadmin/jc/](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courtadmin/jc/).

### EDUCATION/TRAINING

#### CJER Programs

DEC 2	Complex Civil Litigation Workshop, Santa Ana
JAN 6	Assigned Judges Program, San Diego
JAN 24–28	Continuing Judicial Studies Program, Burlingame

#### *Court Managers and Supervisors Regional Training*

DEC 9–10	Improving Staff Performance, San Bernardino
JAN 11–12	Improving Staff Performance, Fresno
JAN 24–25	Improving Staff Performance, Sacramento
JAN 25–27	Seven Habits of Highly Effective People, Rancho Cucamonga

#### *Court Staff Regional Training*

DEC 1	Juvenile Dependency, Sacramento
DEC 3	Processing Criminal and Traffic Appeals, San Francisco
DEC 8	Felony Sentencing Procedures, Sacramento
DEC 9	DMV Abstract Reporting, Burbank

#### *Qualifying Judicial Ethics Training, Second Cycle (QE2)*

DEC 1	Santa Barbara
JAN 21	Oakland

#### *New Judge Orientation*

JAN 10–14	San Francisco
FEB 14–18	San Francisco

#### *Computer Classes for Judicial Officers*

DEC 2–3	San Francisco
FEB 24–25	Los Angeles

#### **Criminal Caseflow Management Workshop**

FEB 28–MAR 1    Burbank

#### **Family Dispute Resolution Training**

DEC 3                      Redding

## COURT NEWS

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